

IAEA demands Iraqi 'cooperation'

VIENNA (AFP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Friday demanded that Iraq stop hindering searches for nuclear weapons material and cooperate fully with its inspectors. But the IAEA's annual general assembly adopted a more conciliatory tone than in the past, snubbing a U.S. bid to include a condemnation of Iraq's nuclear programme in its final resolution. The IAEA resolution "demands that Iraq hand over to the action team without further delay any currently undisclosed nuclear weapon related equipment, material and information." It also urged that Baghdad "allow the action team immediate, unconditional and unrestricted rights of access" to suspected nuclear weapons sites and "to resolve remaining ambiguities, inconsistencies and contradictions" on the information it has so far supplied.

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Jordan switches to winter time

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan switched to winter time at midnight Thursday, making the local time three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) instead of two hours that the Kingdom followed since April.

Kabarti receives Kuwaiti message

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti on Friday received the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Amman, Faisal Al Mukhelzim, who relayed to him a verbal message from Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah dealing with bilateral relations and the latest developments in Iraq.

EU and Iran close to Rushdie deal

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Union (EU) and Iran are close to striking a deal to end a six-year dispute over the death sentence Tehran passed on the British writer Salman Rushdie, an EU source said Friday. Final agreement on the accord could be reached at a meeting in New York next Tuesday between EU representatives and Iranian foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati, the source said. It would clear the way for Iran to agree that the fatwa enshrining the death sentence against Mr. Rushdie would not be carried out on the soil of any EU countries.

Israel to sign nuclear test ban treaty

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will sign a global nuclear test ban treaty next Wednesday, the day after it opens for signing at the United Nations, Israeli diplomats said Friday. Israel's decision opens the way for Egypt to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 10. President Hosni Mubarak said on Sept. 12 that Egypt would only sign if Israel did the same.

Iraqi Turcomans to hold general meeting

ANKARA (AFP) — Iraqi Turcomans will meet in Ankara next month to assert the solidarity of the Turkish-speaking minority and seek a solution to the conflict in northern Iraq, sources said here on Friday. The general assembly, which will be the third of its kind since 1993, will seek "to establish long and short-term aims" for Turcomans, an anonymous Turcoman source said. "Our aim is to support and defend Iraq's territorial integrity," the source added. "But should a federal system be established in the future, the Turcomans would have the right to form their own provinces."

Afghan jets bomb Jalalabad

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghan government jets bombed the Taliban-held eastern garrison city of Jalalabad Friday, injuring at least two people, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said as the militia claimed more gains in nearby Laghman province. The jets targeted the official residence of the provincial governor, the city's airport and some residential districts, the agency said. The bombing left at least two people injured, it quoted Taliban officials as saying. Further details were not immediately available.



U.S. reinforces military presence in Gulf despite easing of Iraq tension

American soldiers train with live-fire near Iraq border Baghdad: Any ground offensive will be annihilated

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies)

As more U.S. troop reinforcements arrived in Kuwait on Friday for live-fire exercises with tanks and weapons in the desert near Iraq, Baghdad warned it could "annihilate" any U.S. ground offensive. Some 700 U.S. first cavalry division troops had arrived in Kuwait by the afternoon, out of 3,500 on their way from Texas, with more planes scheduled to arrive every few hours to join the heavy brigade forming in Kuwait. U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Nickerson said the reinforcements were expected to reach a full strength of 5,000 combat troops "within the next 48 hours."

"They're setting up their new home," said Sergeant James Yocum, referring to the first batch of some 200 troops who arrived Thursday and were out in the desert the next day digging sand berms and setting up camouflaged desert camps.

The 1,200 troops previously based in the Kuwaiti desert staged a series of live-fire exercises using Bradley fighting vehicles and M-16 rifles, and practised fighting in chemical warfare masks and suits.

Iraq responded to the manoeuvres by saying it could "annihilate" any ground attack by the U.S. troops massing in Kuwait. The editor of the Iraqi government daily Al Jumhuriya, Salah Al Mukhtar, told AFP in Baghdad that the "presence of 5,000 American soldiers does not scare Iraq."

"In case of attack, these



U.S. soldiers train with live ammunition in the Kuwaiti desert some 25 kilometres from the Iraqi border on Friday (Reuters photo)

5,000 soldiers would be easily annihilated," Mr. Mukhtar added. But he also held out an olive branch, saying Baghdad did not have any "aggressive aims against Kuwait, and we will not give the Americans the opportunity to lead new attacks against Iraq."

"In fact, we have no aggressive aims against anyone and we are ready to

talk with everyone, including the United States and Iran," he added.

Despite easing tensions between the United States and Iraq, a total of more than 30,000 U.S. military personnel and 200 American planes will soon be in the Gulf.

The United States boosted its presence in the region Thursday, sending more ground troops and 75 war-

planes to patrol Iraqi skies.

The USS Enterprise also arrived in the Gulf carrying about 75 warplanes and 8,000 personnel in its battle group, said T. McCreary, a U.S. Navy spokesman. It joins the carrier USS Carl Vinson, which has been involved in policing the "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq.

Before the buildup, there were only about 19,000 U.S. military personnel in the region. Including the 1,200 in Kuwait, about 11,000 were on naval vessels and about 7,000 air force men and women were in Saudi Arabia. The new troops will bring the total U.S. presence to over 30,000.

U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered the deployment as part of a major show of force in the Gulf to contain Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and pressure him into abandoning his air defences in an expanded "no fly" zone set up the United States over southern Iraq.

Alongside the buildup in Kuwait, the United States now has two aircraft carrier battlegroups in the Gulf and has sent anti-missile Patriot missiles to Saudi Arabia.

The military buildup includes the stationing of eight F-117 Stealth bombers and 18 F-16 fighters at Kuwaiti bases.

Intrinsic Action 96/3, the series of exercises the new troops will join, are to "demonstrate U.S. commitment to the stability and security of the Gulf region."

(Continued on page 7)

Barzani says Turkey dropped buffer zone plan, his ties with West mending despite Saddam

11 killed, 35 injured in shelling of refugees

GENEVA (AFP)

Eleven refugees died and at least 35 were injured when their camp in northern Iraq was shelled by the Iraqi army and its Kurdish allies, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said here Friday. "Forty-six people were taken to hospital, of whom seven died on the way and four after their arrival," according to spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume, quoting information passed on from UNHCR representatives in Iran.

Shortly after the bombing of the Seiran-band camp on Wednesday, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said that four Kurdish refugees had been killed, including three children, and a further ten had been injured.

The camp, located about 20 kilometres from the town of Banah in Iranian Kurdistan, is home to some 35,000 Kurdish refugees.

According to the spokeswoman, the UNHCR is holding talks with Tehran authorities to organise the transfer of thousands of Kurdish refugees to a camp further from the Iraqi border.

Tens of thousands of Kurds fled to Iran last week after the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) drove out its rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), from Kurdish northern Iraq with help from Baghdad.

The Iranian Red Crescent has 65,889 Iraqi Kurdish refugees in five camps, who fled fighting in Iraq earlier this month, officials said.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said the camps were located in the Iranian provinces of Kurdistan and Kermanshah, as well as in neighbouring Azerbaijan.

The Red Crescent said it was assisting other refugees living outside the camps, and that some 150,000 Kurds were also massed on the Iraqi side of the border.

"The situation in the area remains volatile," an official for the federation said. The PKK charged Friday that the KDP had made hundreds of arrests and executed several opponents.

"Several hundred people, perhaps thousands, have been arrested," the PUK said in a statement. "Some of them have already been executed."

It said the former prime minister of a Kurdish government set up in northern Iraq, Fuad Massum, was among those arrested as well as several members of an elected parliament.

The KDP has ransacked offices, television and radio stations, and printing presses, as well as homes of PUK party chiefs, the group said.

It called for the United Nations and human rights organisations to send monitors to the region "to halt this brutal campaign of revenge, because the lives of hundreds of detained people are at risk."

3 sentenced for Mubarak attack

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Three Egyptian militants were convicted and sentenced to death Friday for the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Fana Radio reported. All three are members of the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, which has been waging a four-year campaign of violence to overthrow Mr. Mubarak's secular government and install an Islamic state, the radio said. Fana Radio, owned by the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, said the death sentence, by the central criminal high court, will be carried out after it is approved by the president. Eleven people allegedly participated in the attack on Mr. Mubarak's motorcade as he was arriving in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, for a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity on June 26, 1995. Mr. Mubarak was not hurt, but two policemen were killed.

Arafat pleads for German capital

BONN (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat pleaded Friday for German economic investment in the Palestinian territories, but met with reservations given the uncertain state of the peace process.

The Palestinian president spoke of "great hopes," but the head of Frankfurt's chamber of commerce and industry replied that in the circumstances it would be "illusory" to expect private German enterprise to entertain long-term projects.

Frank Niehammer said that these required guarantees, and he instead favoured a policy of "small steps."

"It's not an easy market but it is a market in which one can develop," he commented.

Mr. Arafat called urgently for investment in water and electricity systems, transport, housing, health and training. He said the infrastructure of the Palestinian people's homeland had been "wholly destroyed."

A major obstacle to his investment hopes is the continued closure of the territories by the Israeli authorities.

The Palestinian leader said Thursday this was an economic "catastrophe" for the territories costing them \$7 million a day.

Mr. Arafat also met German bankers in Frankfurt, and was holding talks with the company that operates the city's international airport, Germany's main air traffic hub, before winding up his two-day visit to the country Friday.

The German government, which through the European Union (EU) is the leading aid donor to the Palestinians, in July provided aid worth 15 million marks (\$10 million) for the Gaza airport.

Hesse region's Social Democrat Premier Hans Eichel, who invited the Palestinian leader to make the visit, said the Frankfurt airport company could take over responsibility for the Gaza facility.

Mr. Arafat held talks Friday with the chairman of the central council of Jews in Germany, Ignatz Bubis, who advised patience in dealing with the Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

(Continued on page 7)

Israelis shell Hizbollah amid increasing tension

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The Israeli army shelled Hizbollah positions in southern Lebanon on Friday, a day after two of its soldiers were killed in a clash with the Iranian-backed group, security sources said.

President Elias Hrawi, meanwhile, held talks in Damascus with his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad to discuss the tension in South Lebanon.

The military escalation, the worst since a ceasefire between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas halted a two-week Israeli blitz of the region in April, came as tension rose between arch-enemies Syria and Israel.

Israel has warned of heavy retaliation for attacks against its troops and Syria has been shifting thousands of its 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned the Hizbollah Friday that Israel would strike back at the guerrillas in South Lebanon for every attack against Israeli soldiers.

"With regards to the Hizbollah, we will strike at them, very strong hits in response to every attack

Levy confident: Peace needs 'concession' over Golan

A PARLIAMENT member close to Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Friday any peace agreement between Israel and Syria implies a "territorial concession" to Damascus.

Yehuda Lancry, a former ambassador to Paris told a Jewish radio station: "A stable peace with Syria means a normalisation... and a territorial concession which remains to be determined, but returning to the borders of 1949 or 1967 is out of the question."

"I cannot tell you what size it will be. But the principle (of a territorial concession) is a clear principle in everyone's mind," Lancry said. Mr. Levy belongs to Mr. Levy's parliamentary group "Geshet" (bridge).

they carry out against us," Mr. Netanyahu told Israel's

(Continued on page 7)



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Europarliament seeks to block aid to Turkey

STRASBOURG (R) — The European Parliament, angered by what it sees as Turkey's reneging on promises to improve its human rights record, said on Thursday it would block hundreds of millions of dollars of aid to Ankara.

Euro-MPs said in a resolution they would freeze European Union (EU) aid destined for Turkey next month when they begin discussions on the 1997 EU budget. The budget must have parliamentary approval.

Thursday's call renewed the parliament's war of words with Turkey. Last year the assembly threatened to thwart a customs union between Ankara and the 15-nation EU.

"Since the establishment of the customs union, the human rights situation in Turkey has noticeably deteriorated and no appreciable progress has been made towards democratisation," the parliament said in a resolution.

Deputies added that since January 1996, when the customs union came into force, Turkey had fomented tension by actions such as "provocations in the Aegean Sea and Cyprus and aggression in northern Iraq."

In Ankara, Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller criticised the parliament's move. "I would like to strongly condemn the decision that the European Parliament took today, because this decision expresses a completely biased point of view," she told reporters.

"Turkey has made serious progress in human rights in the past two years of its own free will. Those who expect us to act according to Europe's biased ideas are mistaken."

The parliament approved the creation of the customs union last December only after Turkey had given explicit guarantees that it would take positive action on human rights.

Cyprus and the plight of Kurds.

The assembly said on Thursday that Turkey's failure to honour these obligations was "in conflict with the letter and spirit" of the customs union and other EU-Turkey accords.

Socialist Euro-MPs, who make up the 626-seat parliament's largest faction, denied having been hoodwinked into approval of the customs deal by promises from Ankara.

"As socialists I think we have special responsibility here because it was our vote that made it possible for the customs union to get through," German socialist Deputy Jannis Sakellariou told a news conference earlier in the week.

"We voted in favour of the customs union as a kind of confidence building measure," he said. "But we wanted them to fulfill (their) commitments."

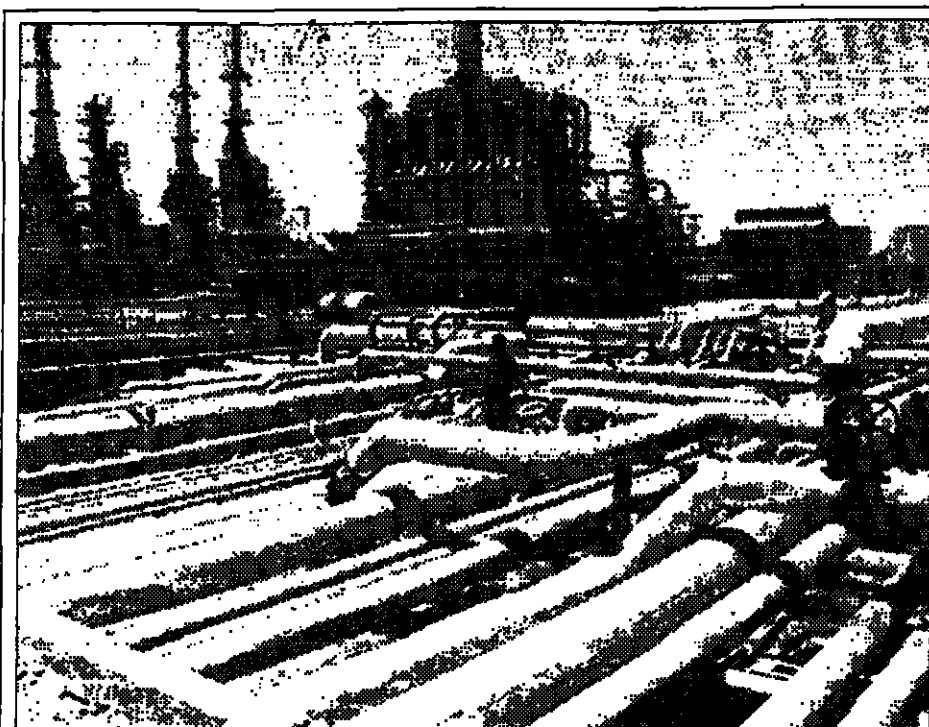
Hans Van Den Broek, the European commissioner responsible for relations with Turkey and Cyprus, promised deputies on Wednesday that the commission — the EU executive — would produce a report on the customs union by October. This would look at recent developments on democracy and the preservation of human rights, he said.

Parliament wants all EU aid to Turkey to stop immediately, but funding for projects to promote democracy and respect for human rights.

The EU plans to set aside 375 million ECUs (\$470 million) between 1996 and 2000 to help Turkey implement the customs pact.

Turkey is also eligible for substantial financing from the EU's MEDA programme, through which 410 million ECUs have been earmarked for the bloc's Mediterranean neighbours in 1996.

The EU could allocate as much as \$42 million ECUs to this group of countries in 1997.



RECONSTRUCTED: Workers walk around the reconstructed oil refinery at Tikrit in Iraq. Iraq has been allowed to sell oil in return for food under U.N. Resolution 986, but the U.S. administration is delaying the process after the recent missile attack on Iraq's southern military installations in retaliation for Baghdad's military incursion against a Kurdish faction in support of another in northern Iraq. The U.N. secretary-general said Thursday he did not expect the deal to be implemented before 1997 (see page 12) (Reuters photo)

Israel accepts prominent French role in Middle East peacemaking

PARIS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an interview published on Thursday he accepted France's efforts to play a more active role in Middle East peacemaking.

The headline Israeli leader, due to visit Paris next week, told the French magazine Valeurs Actuelles he was not sure the European Union (EU) had a coherent foreign policy or understood the dangers which the creation of a Palestinian state would imply.

Mr. Netanyahu, whose opposition to trading occupied Arab land for peace has been criticised by France, said he did not believe President Jacques Chirac's policy was "aimed exclusively towards the Arab countries to the detriment of other countries."

Asked about EU support for Palestinian self-determination, Mr. Netanyahu said: "I am not sure the European Union has really got a fully thought-out or coherent common foreign policy so far."

"I do not know either whether the EU has understood all the implications of the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state. Such a state would control Israel's water resources and airspace, could invite the armed forces of Arab states or Islamic extremists on to its territory, could continue to formulate extremist demands towards the state of Israel."

Mr. Netanyahu, who will tour Britain, France and Germany next week, said it would not be logical for the Europeans to be more categorical about the final shape of peace, than the parties involved in negotiations.

Mr. Masari, head of the committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights in exile in London, has achieved fame as an irritant in Saudi-British relations. The British government decided to deport him to Dominica but the courts overruled the decision.

In the interview he said he saw no prospect of the Saudi royal family "reforming" itself and its best bet was for the dominant Sudairi group to let Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz succeed King Fahd, who has been seriously ill.

The seven Sudairis, sons of one wife of the late King Abdul Aziz Ben Saud, include King Fahd, Defence Minister Prince Sultan and five other brothers. Prince Abdullah is their half-brother. "There's no capability for reform, no strong character to stop the princes from corruption. You'd need someone to line tens of them up against the wall and shoot them. They're so used to spending that amount of money," he said.

S. Arabian dissident suggests military rule

CAIRO (R) — Saudi dissident Mohammad Al Masaari has said in an interview that Saudi Arabia might benefit from a military dictatorship as a temporary stage between monarchy and constitutional government.

"Military dictatorships are not generally a positive thing, but in Saudi Arabia's case it might be a necessary transitional period. The new generation of army officers are reform-minded. It would be the middle classes' day," he told the regional weekly newspaper the Middle East Times.

The newspaper had planned to print the interview in last week's edition but Egyptian government censors said in advance they would not let the edition into the country. The newspaper made a copy of the interview available to Reuters.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Qadhafi starts handing out \$5,000 to Libyans

CAIRO (AP) — Libya has started handing out \$5,000 in cash to needy Libyans as part of a promise by Colonel Moammar Qadhafi to share the country's hefty oil revenues with its citizens. The Central Bank of Libya deposited the money in 50,000 accounts that will help Libyans with "basic salaries, pensions or large families," Libyan state television said Thursday. Col. Qadhafi declared earlier this month that needy families would receive \$5,000 and that the government would monitor their spending to make sure it was not wasted. "Buying toys for children," he said, was an example of how it should not be used. "You will have to bring something useful to the country and for yourselves," he was quoted as saying in the speech. The plan was supposed to provide money for 113,000 families in the country, which receives more than \$10 billion a year in oil revenue. The television said more accounts would be set up but did not say when or how many. Other needy were urged more to apply, the television said in a report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

400 Bangladeshis repatriated from UAE

DHAKA (AFP) — More than 400 Bangladeshi workers have been repatriated from Dubai following a United Arab Emirates (UAE) decision to expel "illegal" foreign nationals living there, officials said Friday. They landed here (Thursday) in five flights with out-passes or travel documents from the Bangladesh embassy in Dubai, an immigration official in Dhaka said. The UAE government reportedly set a deadline of Sept. 30 for about 150,000 foreign nationals, including 25,000 Bangladeshis, accused of staying illegally in the oil-rich country to leave. Reports said UAE authorities warned "illegal foreign nationals" they faced five-year jail terms and large fines unless they left the country by the deadline. Most of the deportees, aged between 25 and 35, are unskilled or semi-skilled workers who went to the UAE in the early 1990s in search of employment.

Five arrested in Belgian swoop on Kurds

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Five people were arrested and charged with money laundering and "terrorist activities" in a swoop on Belgium's Kurdish community, judicial officials said. Two hundred police were involved in the crackdown and 20 searches were carried out throughout the country. The announcement came after British police searched the premises of a Kurdish television channel in London Wednesday night, as part of a money-laundering investigation. Detectives from Scotland Yard's special branch raided the offices of Med-TV in central London and seized several documents. Med-TV has frequently criticised Turkish government policy towards the Kurds. Similar swoops were made in Germany. Belga news agency said. The arrests were made after \$10 million were seized in Luxembourg belonging to a company that produces Kurdish television programmes to be aired by satellite. The company is suspected of having ties with Turkey's banned separatist Kurdistan Labour Party. According to judicial officials, the money comes from criminal activities including drug trafficking, gun-running, trade in humans and massive extortion from Kurds.

Vandals destroy Jordanian plaque at Al Aqsa Mosque

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Guards at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque were attacked with hammers Friday when they tried to stop a group of Palestinians from smashing a marble plaque that honours Jordan for funding renovations at the holy site.

At least four guards were hurt in the clash.

Jordan maintained a special role after Israel occupied the eastern sector of Jerusalem in 1967 and continued to pay the salaries of the Islamic trust officials who run the city's holy sites.

In 1993, King Hussein sold a home in England to help the \$8 million needed to renovate the Dome of the Rock.

But since the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1994,

the Palestinians have been challenging Jordan's special role, which continues to be recognised by Israel. PNA President Yasser Arafat appointed his own top Muslim cleric, or mufti, alongside the mufti named by Jordan.

In Friday's incident, a group of Palestinians emerging from noon prayers used hammers and other sharp instruments to smash the 1.5-metre-high marble plaque. The vandals also covered a second plaque that mentions Jordan's control over the site with black spray paint.

When Islamic trust guards tried to intervene, the vandals attacked the security men with hammers, witnesses said. Four guards were treated for head and chest injuries at an East Jerusalem hospital. Israel Radio said that in all, seven guards were hurt.

U.S. expands probe into 'Gulf war syndrome'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Pentagon has decided to widen its probe of the so-called Gulf war syndrome to see if soldiers afflicted with the mysterious disease were exposed to chemical weapons during the 1990-91 war.

Kenneth Bacon, a Pentagon spokesman, said at a news conference Thursday that the U.S. military would check on the status of some 5,000 soldiers — and possibly even more — who may have been exposed.

At issue are two sites where in March 1991 chemical weapons were destroyed, one in so-called "Bunker 73," and the other in a place called "The Pit."

"We don't know how many

chemical weapons were in that pit," Mr. Bacon said. "So it's difficult for us to model the dispersion of whatever chemicals might have occurred."

Mr. Bacon said it was possible that the number of soldiers to be examined could be higher than 5,000.

"I think that there is a possibility that the number will grow. How great a possibility, I don't know," he said.

Mr. Bacon said U.S. authorities had decided to enlarge the area around the two sites from five kilometres to about 25 kilometres to determine whether there was some contamination from chemical products.

Gulf war syndrome is a collection of complaints reported

by returning veterans of the war, including joint pain, fatigue, headaches, memory and sleep loss, rashes and depression.

In June, the U.S. Defence Department awarded \$7.3 million for medical research on the possible causes and treatment of the affliction.

Thursday's announcement vastly expanded the search for possible victims after the military said earlier that only 150 U.S. troops could have suffered some exposure as they destroyed the Kamisiyah ammunition depot in southern Iraq in March 1991.

The new advisory said the expanded notifications were being made because deadly chemical nerve agents sarin

and cyclosarin might have spread from 122 rockets being destroyed in an area of the big arms complex.

"The Defence Department will begin notifications immediately to about 5,000 service members who were in the possible dispersion area," the announcement said. "Information currently being evaluated suggests low-level exposures may have taken place out to 25 kilometres from the Kamisiyah complex on March 10, 1991."

The U.S. government, on orders from President Bill Clinton, last year mounted a major effort to resolve medical complaints from as many as 60,000 U.S. Gulf war veterans. The complaints range from

numbness to memory loss, but no common cause or "Gulf war syndrome" has been found.

The Defence Department and the Central Intelligence Agency are already working on a computer model that will estimate the possible dispersion of the chemical agents to troops that may have been anywhere near the Kamisiyah complex.

The Pentagon denied last month that it intentionally quashed a 1991 classified report suggesting that U.S. troops were exposed to Iraqi chemical weapons. But it conceded that "the full relevance of the report was not recognised at the time" and it was not investigated until this year.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05Cartoon — Moomin
15:25Pumpkin Patch
15:45Drama — Blue Heelers
16:30Comedy — Big Brother
17:00News Flash
17:02News Flash
17:15La Vie Devant Moi
17:30Game Show — Les Bons Genies
18:00Police des Polices
19:00Le Journal
19:15Magazine — Faut Pas Rater
19:30News Headlines
19:35Comedy — The Turkobon
20:00The Album Show
20:45Drama — Miami Vice
21:15Prism
22:00News in English
22:25The Bold and the Beautiful
23:15Feature Film "In the Line of Duty"

PRAYER TIMES

05:01Fajr
06:18(Sunrise) Doha
12:30Dhuhr
15:58Asr
18:40Maghrib
19:57Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624300
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.
Terrasanta Church Tel.
622346

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Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church
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St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.
Amman International Church
Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457.
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295.
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al As'ad751672
Dr. Issam Al Asmar890504
Dr. Osama Al Husseini847289
Dr. Khaldoun Khouh886715
Firas pharmacy661912
Ferdows pharmacy778356
Al Asema pharmacy637055
Nairoukh pharmacy623672
Al Salam pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy637660
Najib pharmacy847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'annach750180
Al Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shohin995170
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures above average and winds northerly active. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas choppy.
Min/Max temp.
Amman20/33
Aqaba25/40
Deserts16/36
Jordan Valley24/39

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 32, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390
Public Security Department630321
Hotel Complaints605800
Price Complaints661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints397467
Amman Municipality Complaints787111
Telephone Information (direct assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs661101
Jordan Television773111
Radio Jordan774111
Water Authority680100
Jordan Electricity Authority815615
Electric Power Company636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111
Civil Defence Department661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade617101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn644281/6
Aldieh Maternity, J. Amn642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity642362
Mathas, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shmeisani

607071
Shmeisani Hospital669131
University Hospital845845
Al-Muasher Hospital667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh775111/26
Army, Marka891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital(09)98732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital(09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital(02)27275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT
This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:00Damascus (RJ)
09:20Beirut (RJ)
09:30New Delhi (RJ)
09:30Kuwait, Dubai (RJ)
10:00Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
10:00Colombo (RJ)
14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:20Cairo (RJ)
18:15London, Berlin (RJ)
18:40Vienna (RJ)
04:30Bangkok (RJ)
Other Flights
02:00Rome (AZ)
12:40Muscat, Doha (GF)
13:00Riyadh (SV)
14:00Vienna (OS)
18:35Amsterdam (KL)
19:35Cairo (MS)
19:50Damascus, Paris (AF)
20:10Beirut (ME)
20:15London (BA)
21:00Sanaa (IY)
21:25Lamaca (CY)
22:55London (KJ)
02:00Kuwait (KL)
05:30Tel Aviv (LY)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
08:50 Aqaba (QAIA) — proceeds to Marka airport at 10:00 a.m.

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:35Beirut (RJ)
08:45Istanbul (RJ)
11:00Aqaba, Paris (RJ)
11:00Vienna (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00Aqaba, Brussels (RJ)
12:00Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:15Cairo (RJ)
13:05London (RJ)
20:10Lamaca (RJ)
20:10Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
20:20Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45Jeddah (RJ)
21:20Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
Other Flights
03:00Athens (OA)
03:00Rome (AZ)
07:45Beirut (ME)
13:30Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:30Riyadh (SV)
15:00Vienna (OS)
19:45Kuwait (KL)
20:20Cairo (MS)
22:30Lamaca (CY)
22:55Paris, Damascus (AF)
23:59Sanaa (IY)
03:00Amsterdam (KL)
03:00Rome (AZ)
05:40London (KJ)
06:25Tel Aviv (LY)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
10:00Aqaba (RW)
HJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg
Apple700/500
Banana600/600
Banana (mukharman)520/520
Banana (imported)760/500
Cabbage110/70
Carrot300/150
Cauliflower420/250
Cucumber (large)150/100
Cucumber (small)280/180
Eggplant240/150
Fig300/200
Garlic700/450
Guava450/300
Lemon360/250
Marrow (large)340/200
Marrow (small)340/200
Mulukiah120/70
Onion (dry)160/90
Okra1200/700
Pea650/400
Pepper (hot)340/200
Pepper (sweet)340/200
Pumpkin380/250
Potato280/160
Sring Bean700/400
Sweet melon380/250
Tomato220/120
Water melon210/120

Home News

Jordan Times, Saturday, September 21, 1996 3

German MPs end visit; pledge support for local economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two members of the German Bundestag's (Parliament) Economic Cooperation Committee are expected to conclude a three-day visit to Jordan today and head for Damascus as part of a regional tour.

D. Schmidt and M. Winneberger Friday visited Petra where they toured a German-financed stone conservation project in the ancient city.

The JD3.2 million project, which was started two years ago to assist Jordan in preserving its heritage sites, is being implemented through the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

The German MPs Thursday met Lower House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour and

reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the peace process.

Mrs. Schmidt said that Germany was following developments in Jordan in the social, economic and political arenas and added that she pledged to support Jordan's efforts at the Bundestag.

Mr. Srour said he hoped Germany would continue to help Jordan fulfill some of its responsibilities, particularly the care of Palestinian refugees.

The German delegation also met on Thursday with Senator Naelah Rashdan to review women's involvement in public life and women's contributions to the country's economic, social and political life.

Body of driver killed in Iraq returned

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The body of a 25-year-old Jordanian truck driver, allegedly brutally murdered in Iraq last week, was Friday returned to the Kingdom.

The body will be examined by forensic experts, an official source said.

The victim, identified as Salem Mohammad, was hauling merchandise in a truck headed towards Baghdad, when his vehicle was hijacked by armed men, sources said.

According to these sources the men shot Mr. Mohammad, cut off his ears and abandoned the corpse in the desert; they then looted the truck and fled.

The sources told the Jordan Times Friday that a committee of coroners from the National Institute of Forensic Medicine will convene today to commence examinations of the body.

This is the second such incident to be reported in the past six months.

On March 20, three young Jordanians were brutally murdered in Iraq when seven Iraqis hijacked their truck, shot them, then decapitated the corpses and buried them in the Iraqi desert.

Their bodies were discovered by Iraqi authorities 20 days subsequent to the incident.

The three men, in their mid 20s, were headed to Baghdad in a truck carry-

ing 30 tonnes of sugar.

A week later, official Iraqi newspapers reported that seven persons were arrested in connection with their murder.

Meanwhile, police were waiting Friday for results determining the cause of death of a man whose deteriorating body was discovered in a deserted area behind a hotel in Tla'a Al Ali Friday.

Preliminary examinations from coroners at the National Institute of Forensic Medicine indicated that the man died five months ago.

Police have stated that they will wait for final results to determine the identity of the man and whether his death resulted of natural or other causes.

PMP president denies closure of Amman office

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The New York-based President of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine (PMP), Monsignor Robert Stern, Friday categorically denied that the mission, which has been operating in Jordan since 1949, is closing its office in Amman and further affirmed that the mission and local church authorities continue "to work together in a spirit of total cooperation."

In a statement sent to the Jordan Times Friday, referring to an article published

in the daily on Thursday, Msgr. Stern said "any statement that the mission is closing in Amman is false and misleading."

PMP Amman Office Director Raymond Riddick had confirmed to the Jordan Times in a telephone interview last week that the mission would cease operations in Jordan and that local staff had been served notice.

Mr. Riddick had specifically mentioned the main cause of the closure of operations as linked to the uncooperative behaviour of the local laity in Jordan with the PMP, stressing that

for the past five years his office had been vainly attempting to compromise with them on a mechanism for conducting the mission's activities in the Kingdom.

But in his written statement, Msgr. Stern stressed that "the PMP is proud of being at the service of the people and churches of Jordan and that relations between the PMP and the local church authorities have always been harmonious and characterised by complete trust and mutual cooperation."

Furthermore, Msgr. Stern stated that what he called an

"administrative consolidation" of the Amman and Jerusalem PMP offices was under review "but has not been decided, and if such consolidation is to be made it would affect only the management of the Amman office not its programmatic activity."

Mr. Riddick had previously stated in the telephone interview with the Jordan Times that the Jerusalem office would maintain a symbolic presence in Amman and that an officer would occasionally visit after the maintained closure of the office. He added that the PMP office

in New York "might decide to maintain activities and services for the Palestinian refugee camps only."

Msgr. Stern said: "I find it hard to believe that the statements attributed to the director of our Amman office are entirely accurate. If they are then they express only the sentiments of an individual, they do not reflect nor accurately portray the policy or position of the PMP. I deeply regret them and apologise for any pain or misunderstanding that they may have caused."

International organisations appeal to King on behalf of detained journalists

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two international organisations responsible for defending journalists world-wide have appealed to His Majesty King Hussein to intervene on behalf of journalists facing charges in connection with last month's unrest in the south.

The appeals by the Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) and the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) came after two more journalists were detained last week on charges apparently not related to the riots in the south.

Hilmi Asmar, chief editor of Al Sabeel weekly — the mouthpiece of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party — was arrested Wednesday and Nasser Qammar, chief editor of Sawt Al Maraa, was detained Thursday.

No details were immediately available on why the two were detained.

But it was believed that Mr. Asmar's detention was

related to an article that Al Sabeel carried last week. The report alleged that a Hamas activist, Isam Najjar, who was released after IAF intervention early last week had been tortured while in custody for two weeks.

The report sparked severe criticism of the security authorities and a call by IAF Deputy Bassam Emoush for the formation of a committee to investigate claims of torture in detention.

The alleged torture of Mr. Najjar was also one of the points mentioned in a statement issued by 23 opposition members in Parliament on Wednesday demanding the resignation of the government.

The arrest of Mr. Qammar was believed to be linked to a report that Sawt Al Maraa published last month focusing on the Raghadan Square in downtown Amman. The weekly claimed that prostitution, gambling and drug sales were rampant in the area.

The Ministry of Information has already filed

charges against Sawt Al Maraa, saying that the report was subjective and contained unverified information as well as obscene material that breached the Code of Conduct. Mr. Qammar was arrested while attending a court session related to cases filed against Sawt Al Maraa.

Mr. Asmar was arrested at his home. A statement by the IAF said police also seized some of his writings and books.

The arrests of Mr. Asmar, vice-president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), and Mr. Qammar raised to 14 the number of journalists arrested, released after questioning and facing charges since the Aug. 16/17 riots in the south. Some of the journalists face charges of violating the Press and Publications Law while others are held in connection with security-related charges.

In its appeal to the King, Reporters Sans Frontières referred to the arrests of Mr. Asmar and Mr. Qammar as well as the continued detention of Fuad Hus-

sein, a reporter for the Arabic-language Al Aswaq newspaper and a member of the JPA executive council.

Noting that Jordan has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Reporters Sans Frontières requested the King to "use your influence to have Hilmi Asmar and Nasser Kammar released immediately" and to "clarify the charges against Fuad Hussein and to free him if he is not accused of anything."

The Committee to Protect Journalists expressed concern over the pending case against five employees of the Al Bilad weekly on charges of violating the Press and Publications Law.

"As a non-partisan organisation of journalists dedicated to the defence of our colleagues rights throughout the world, CPJ fears that these journalists are being prosecuted for having carried out their professional duties," said the committee in its appeal to the King.

"The trial of the publisher and journalists from Al Bilad is a disturbing trend which began with the passage of the restrictive Press and Publications Law — of legally prosecuting journalists for their writing," it said.

"The prosecution of the Al Bilad journalists calls into question the Jordanian government's commitment to freedom of the press and represents a clear violation of their right to 'seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,' guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations."

"We, therefore, respectfully request that Your Majesty recommend to the appropriate authorities to withdraw the charges," said the CPJ in its appeal. It also appealed to the King to "urge the government to enact appropriate legal safeguards to prevent journalists' rights to report news freely," added the organisation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Warnings against chemical tampering of products

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for Consumer Protection (JSCP) Friday warned against the tampering of various commodities. JSCP President Mohammad Obaidat said in a statement that complaints have been received concerning detergents lacking in some chemical components which have led to vomiting and coma.

Festival to open in Irbid tomorrow

IRBID (Petra) — A cultural festival will kick off at Al Hassan Youth City in Irbid tomorrow. The festival which is slated to run for three days includes folkloric groups from the municipality who will exult in songs, dances, plays, poem recitals and dabkas. The festival also includes an exhibition of agricultural products and handicrafts. Taking part in the festival are Al Yarmouk University, Al Hassan Youth City, the Armed Forces and the Public Security Department.

French MPs tour Petra

AMMAN (Petra) — A French parliamentary delegation Friday visited Petra where it was briefed on the city's historic importance and its role in the domestic economy. The delegation is currently on a five-day visit to the Kingdom, and will meet with senior officials here.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CHINESE FILM WEEK

* "Two Chinese films entitled "The Great Wall of China" and "The Story of Junanan" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

* "A Dramatic Argument on Laughter" (Arabic) by Yousef Al 'Ami at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Plastic art by Iraqi artist Widad Ayal at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Sept. 26.

* Works by Mohammad Al Jalous at Bahadna Art Gallery, entitled "Pathetic" at Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 30.

* Works by Shereen Odeh at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 623297), until Oct. 1.

* Basketry exhibition (with a variety of wrought iron furniture mixed with basketry) at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 6991412), until Oct. 10.

* "Water colours works by Salam Kanaan and Pia Hayes at Alfa Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639303), until Sept. 26.

* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (including ceramic sculptures by Vera Tamari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khammar, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.

* Works by artists from France, Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt entitled "Tapis Volants" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 24.

UNRWA-Amman complains of 'grim prospects' in battling budget deficit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Amman office of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Friday warned that the agency's operations in the Kingdom, as well as in other parts of the Arab region, are facing grim prospects unless further donations are received to meet the agency's budget deficit this year which has reached \$45 million.

Director of UNRWA operations in Jordan Robert Hopkins told the Jordan News Agency Petra Friday that "we are facing acute shortage in financing our operations and unless speedy action is taken we will find ourselves forced to make very difficult decisions which would adversely affect the nature of our operations."

Referring to an emergency meeting of donor nations and Middle Eastern countries hosting Palestinian refugees to be held here on Monday to discuss the deficit, Mr. Hopkins said that unless UNRWA receives necessary donations it will be forced to further reduce social, educational and health care services to the refugees.

"All donor and host countries are in agreement that the agency should continue to provide its diverse services to refugees and that everything possible must be done to improve and develop such services until a solution has been found to the refugee problem," he added.

He noted that UNRWA has applied austerity measures this year including the incision of \$1 million from the \$80 million budget for local operations noting that the cut affected the agency's aid in financing medical treatment for refugees in private hospitals and school maintenance projects.

However, he said that education and basic health services have not been heretofore affected.

According to UNRWA officials, the Monday meeting is being held to spotlight participants of major donor nations and to underline the 1996 financial deficit.

The donor nations will brainstorm ways of minimising the UNRWA budget deficit in order to enable the agency to maintain its services to Palestinian refugees, they

added.

They defined a major donor as a country that donates \$1 million or more to UNRWA.

The list includes, among others, the United States, the European Union and Japan.

According to Mr. Hopkins UNRWA had consistently covered 20 per cent of the cost of kidney dialysis but had to be terminate this service as of the beginning of this month for financial reasons.

In terms of social services programmes Mr. Hopkins affirmed that the agency has reduced its in-kind assistance to refugee families.

About 34,000 families out of a total of 1.3 million beneficiaries were registered with the agency in Jordan, he said.

He said that the agency was forced to take this step in view of its shrinking supplies of basic foods, adding that the agency hopes to resume this assistance in the coming years.

Mr. Hopkins further announced that the 10 countries on the UNRWA Advisory Commission are to hold a meeting in Amman on Sunday to review a report directed to the UN General Assembly this autumn by the agency's commissioner general, Peter Hansen.

The report, according to UNRWA sources, covers the period from July 30, 1995 to June 1, 1996.

Mr. Hopkins said that the Sunday meeting will offer the commission members an opportunity to make their comments and remarks on the report.

The commission groups Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, the U.S., Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium and Turkey.

Mr. Hopkins expressed appreciation of the Jordanian government's continued cooperation with the agency in educational, health and social affairs, adding that services provided by UNRWA and Jordan to the Palestinian refugees complement each other and serve a common objective.

On Tuesday UNRWA's Commissioner General Peter Hansen will address a press conference at the Amman Philadelphia Hotel to sum up the outcome of the meetings by the Advisory Commission and the major donor nations.

A total of 786,054 tourists visit Jordan in first 8 months of 1996

By Shehab Makahleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A total of 786,054 tourists have visited Jordan over the last eight months up from 738,670 for the previous year, according to a Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities source.

"Tourists visit Jordan to see its legendary sites and this is a record year after the sharp fall caused by the Gulf crisis," the source said.

The majority of tourists hailed from the Gulf region with 412,253 visitors; Europeans followed with 178,494; Americans had the third largest group with 79,071; Israelis fourth with 86,104 and other assorted tourists made up the remainder at 30,132.

July witnessed a rise in tourist activities and the number of tourists to the Kingdom totalled 123,217 up from 69,440 in June; most of them visiting the ancient Nabatean city of Petra and the Greco-Roman city of Jerash.

"The number of tourists to Jordan is expected to reach 1.5 million in 1996 with revenues reaching \$1 billion up from \$700 million in 1995. Tourism represents a main source of revenue for Jordan directly after expatriate remittances and exports of potash and phosphate," the source said.

"About 103,000 tourists visited the Madaba governorate alone in the last seven months," according to Director of the Tourism Promotion Office Sami Ajarmeh.

"Madaba is rich in its cultural, historic and religious heritage including the Church of the Apostles, Mount Neppo and antique edifices with mosaic floors."

Although there was an equal increase in tourists visiting the ancient city of Petra, sources spoke of a limit imposed by the ministry on the number of visitors to this city in order to protect its environment and ruins.

Save water...
every drop counts

Clinton claims \$118b in savings

PORTLAND, Oregon, (R) — Trying to blunt Republican critics casting him as a free-spending Democrat wanting big government, President Bill Clinton planned to take credit Friday for saving taxpayers \$118 billion and cutting the federal workforce.

Bouyed by enthusiastic crowds on his swing through the Pacific northwest, President Clinton was to wrap up four days of campaigning with events hailing the benefits of his "reinventing government" efforts over the last three years.

After Thursday's day-long bus ride through Washington state generated large crowds and the scent of victory in the Nov. 5 election, President Clinton hoped to counter charges by Republican rival Bob Dole that his policies foster more government and higher taxes to pay for it.

"The era of big government is over, and this administration has led the way," President Clinton said in

remarks prepared for delivery in Portland. "The proof that government can work better and cost less is \$118 billion in savings to taxpayers."

"This is a real result that saves real money that benefits all Americans," said President Clinton.

The claim was based on efforts led by Vice-President Al Gore, who joined President Clinton on the campaign trail Thursday, to overhaul the way the federal government conducts business — from eliminating such things as a long-criticized mohair wool subsidies to streamlining federal procurement procedures.

Mr. Gore, in a report to President Clinton, said that 13 of 14 federal departments have reduced the size of their work force — the Justice Department being the only exception — since their administration began in Jan. 1993.

The federal civilian payroll numbered 2.1 million when President Clinton was sworn in and now numbers

1.9 million — a reduction of 240,000. If reelected to a second term, President Clinton intends to push for an even smaller work force, White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said.

Although President Clinton and all the senior officials around him insist they are worried that the race for the White House will become close, the president clearly is enjoying life on the campaign trail.

Since leaving Washington Tuesday, President Clinton has plunged into crowds to shake hands — seemingly oblivious to sometimes heavy rain. His mood has been relaxed and upbeat, with virtually no sign that he is fretting the outcome.

One sign of President Clinton's confidence can be seen in the fact that he added a stop in South Dakota on his way back to Washington Friday night. Traditionally Democrats write-off the state as a hopeless cause in presidential elections.

"We believe we have a

real chance of winning there," said Joe Lockhart, the press secretary of the Clinton-Gore campaign. Although the potential Electoral College votes to be gained in mostly rural South Dakota are few, the fact the frontrunner is going there is telling.

Not only is President Clinton campaigning for himself, he also is campaigning for fellow Democrats — who a mere two years ago, in the wake of the Republican congressional landslide, wanted nothing to do with him.

Now, candidates not only go out of their way to be seen with him, they go out of their way to sound like him. Gary Locke, the Democratic nominee for governor of Washington state, spent Wednesday and Thursday appearing with President Clinton and telling crowds they needed to build bridges into the 21st century — in essence, the president's campaign slogan.

Armenia gears for first post-Soviet presidential poll

YEREVAN (AFP) — Armenians vote Sunday in the first presidential election since the collapse of the Soviet Union, with outgoing leader Levon Ter-Petrosian facing a strong challenge from the Communists and a former fellow dissident.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian, who won 83 per cent of the vote in the last elections in 1991, is favoured to win though it is possible that his failure to resolve the dire economic problems facing the country, could cost him some support. How much, is unclear, in the absence of any reliable opinion polls.

The 51-year-old president faces three challengers: Sergei Badalian, 49 first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party, Vazgen Manoukian 50 the popular leader of the Democratic National Union and Ashot Manucharian, 42 who is given little chance of winning because of his suspected links with the former KGB.

Of the three, Mr. Manoukian stands out as the most serious rival for Mr. Ter-Petrosian, particularly since he has lately rallied the support of several other opposition nationalist parties.

He is notably supported by the Dashnaktsutun, an influential radical nationalist party which was suspended in 1994. About 40 Dashnak members including its leader Vahan Ova-

nessian are in jail pending their trial on charges ranging from drug trafficking to conspiracy to overthrow the government.

It was the crackdown on Dashnak, the main opposition party, which prompted international observers to rule that legislative elections held in July last year had been "free but not fair."

The presidential poll looks like being more democratic even though Mr. Manoukian said he had been deprived of 35 minutes of the broadcasting time to which he was entitled. Others said the voting procedure was so complicated that it would favour the incumbent.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian says he deserves to be reelected because he ended "totalitarian rule" and brought peace to Nagorno-Karabakh, the separatist Armenian-populated enclave in western Azerbaijan. More than 20,000 people were killed in fighting over the enclave between 1988 and 1994 when a ceasefire went into effect. It has been holding ever since while talks continue so far without any permanent settlement.

The Communist candidate has called for a "socialist society" in which private property is allowed but where the state would re-allocate its economic predominance in order to restore the country to its "prosper-

ty of Soviet days." Badalian wants an "economic union" with Russia on which Armenia depends heavily for its raw materials.

Mr. Manoukian, a self-styled "pragmatist" has set as his goal, the return of all those who have fled the country to escape the hardship created by an Azerbaijani blockade imposed over Nagorno-Karabakh and the rupture of economic ties with Moscow in 1992.

Figures vary from 400,000 to one million departures out of a total population of less than four million. Most went to Russia. "The Armenians who have made fortunes in Moscow during these last few years must come back and invest here," Mr. Manoukian said in an interview with Western journalists.

Mr. Manucharian a former dissident and adviser to Mr. Ter-Petrosian on security matters in 1993 has accused the regime of widespread corruption. But he is not popular largely because of his past record at the Interior Ministry and his supposed ties with the former KGB.

About 2.4 million voters are entitled to vote in Sunday's election. It comes 14 months after Armenians voted in a referendum for a new constitution setting up an executive presidency with wide-ranging powers.

House overrides Clinton veto of abortion bill

WASHINGTON (AFP) — In an election-year slap to President Bill Clinton, the Republican-dominated House of Representatives Thursday voted to override a Clinton veto on a bill banning a rare form of abortion.

In a 285-137 vote, the House passed a bill banning "partial-birth" late-term abortions. The vote was largely symbolic because to become law, the bill would also have to pass the Senate in a two-thirds vote, which is not expected.

When he vetoed the bill in April, President Clinton said there were only several hundred such abortions performed in the United States every year and that the procedure was used when the baby was deformed or the mother's health in danger.

But abortion foes maintain that 13,000 such abortions occur yearly.

Abortion is a perennial electoral issue in the United States and the general issue — although not the partial-term abortions — has divided the Republican Party.

The Roman Catholic Church had also lobbied in favour of the ban, which would sentence doctors violating the ban to up to two years in prison.

The anti-abortion Family Research Council praised lawmakers after the vote "for their courage in highlighting a procedure so terrible, it could not be used on animals ... and should not be used for our unborn."

But the pro-choice Planned Parenthood Federation of America said the bill would endanger "the lives, health, and future fertility of women and families."

The group said the procedure was developed for women facing catastrophic pregnancies and added that "abortion opponents have sensationalised a tragic, personal issue for political gain."

The vote came a day after U.S. regulators recommended that the controversial RU-486 abortion pill be approved for sale in the United States, a move that could make it available next year.

The Food and Drug Administration said its approval of the drug was conditional on receiving more information from the population council, an international health-research organisation that holds the patent for the drug in this country.

Should those conditions be met, the drug would be available by early next year.



Pope John Paul II is driven through the crowd passing a Breton flag at rear as he arrives at the mass in Sainte-Anne-d'Auray Friday. Pope John Paul II is in France on the second day of a 4-day pastoral visit (Reuter photo)

Pope to return to France next year

SAINTE-ANNE D'AURAY, France (AFP) — Pope John Paul II dismissed fears about his health at an open-air mass for more than 150,000 Catholics in Brittany Friday with a promise to return to France next year.

The Pope, who is due to undergo appendix surgery in several weeks, was speaking at the end of a two-hour ceremony which climaxed with a display of traditional Breton dancing and bagpipe music.

"I will be in Paris next year," he said in a reference to a scheduled trip to the French capital in Aug. 1997.

The Pontiff appeared in good form as he arrived in this Roman Catholic stronghold on the second day of his four-day visit to France, and went out of his way to say a few words in Breton — the local Celtic language — to spontaneous applause.

Speaking firmly to the crowds gathered in a field under clear blue skies, he appeared sharp and in control as he gave his address from a huge blue and white podium in the shadow of the Sainte-Anne d'Auray Shrine.

The mass was the first large-scale event by the 76-year-old Pontiff, who is to have an operation Oct. 6. Concerns about his health had led to speculation he could cancel parts of the French trip.

"The Pope is in good form," said his spokesman Joaquin Navarro. His only concern this morning was the weather. He was worried about rain and cold for the faithful.

During a trip to Hungary earlier this month he was forced to interrupt addresses because of health problems, and there has been speculation he may have to cancel some parts of his hectic visit.

On Thursday the Pope appeared in relatively good health, although walking slowly with a pronounced stoop.

For Friday's mass tens of thousands gathered from the early hours to celebrate Saint Anne, who appeared to a local man in the 17th century. Sainte-Anne d'Auray is one of the most important Catholic shrines in France.

The Pope arrived here by helicopter from the central city of Tours where he is staying

during his visit. During his four-day visit he is to take numerous gruelling shuttle trips to western and northeastern France.

The crowds sang and applauded as Pope John Paul II processed among them in his bullet-proof Popemobile, waving blessings as he went.

When he finally reached the podium he was seated in a throne-like seat flanked by rows of senior French clergy, from where he presided over proceedings and gave his address.

Relayed live on a huge screen, he spoke firmly throughout. As in recent weeks, his left hand could be seen trembling constantly, and he coughed occasionally.

Some in the crowd were dressed in traditional Breton costumes for the occasion, the first time the Pope had travelled to Brittany in five visits to France. Many wore warm clothing as a pale sun struggled to warm a cool morning in the far northwestern peninsula region.

The Pontiff paid tribute to the Missionary Tradition of Brittany, which he said had given the Catholic Church numerous apostles.

The Pope's trip to France has sparked controversy, notably among militant secularists opposed to his headline views on moral issues including abortion and contraception.

In particular campaigners are opposed to his attendance at a controversial mass in Reims, northeastern France Sunday to mark the 1,500th anniversary of the baptism of King Clovis, the first European pagan monarch to convert to Catholicism.

France has been a secular republic since 1905 when church and state were formally separated. Militants claim the Pope's invitation to the Clovis mass compromises this.

President Jacques Chirac reaffirmed Thursday that France was secular and republican, but paid tribute to its religious heritage saying French people were "proud of their roots."

At Friday's mass there was little talk of the controversy. "I am so happy. We have waited for so long for this day. It is a great joy," said one pilgrim.

Belgian interior minister calls for cool heads on child murder

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Interior Minister Johan Vande Lanotte Friday urged Belgians not to rush to judgement on policemen who were accused of obstructing an inquiry into the disappearance of two small girls murdered by alleged paedophiles.

"The police services must have the chance to give their side of the story before conclusions are drawn," Mr. Vande Lanotte said on Belgian radio hours after Justice Minister Stefaan De Clerck alleged that crucial information had been withheld from the examining magistrate.

"Everyone will be heard before sanctions are taken against anyone whose responsibility has been established," Mr. Vande Lanotte added.

Mr. De Clerck earlier promised parliament that disciplinary measures would be taken against some of the gendarmes who investigated the disappearance last year of eight-year-

olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo.

The bodies of the girls, who went missing in the city of Liege in June 1995, were discovered on Aug. 17 in the garden of a house belonging to convicted child rapist Marc Dutroux.

In his statement to parliament, Mr. De Clerck said that police failed to inform the examining magistrate about Mr. Dutroux's history of child-sex crimes in the early stages of his inquiry.

Mr. Dutroux, dubbed "the monster of Charleroi," was released in 1992 after serving half of a 13-1/2-year sentence for raping five minors.

The gendarmes had information to prove that Mr. Dutroux was "more than just a suspect" in the case of the missing children. Mr. De Clerck said, but he was not arrested until Aug. 13, only four days before their bodies were found.

The bodies of two girls, aged 17 and 19, were found later buried at another

Dutroux property. Two other girls aged 12 and 14 were found alive locked in a cellar in a third property.

"The report which was submitted to me shows that the gendarmes deliberately did all they could to conceal information," Mr. De Clerck told a special parliamentary session to discuss the paedophile scandal that has shaken the country for the past month.

This, he added, "is a particularly grave accusation."

Mr. Vande Lanotte retorted that the justice minister was relying on "a partial vision" of events provided by the courts and the prosecutor's office.

Police officers quoted in the report said they had informed the magistrate verbally of Mr. Dutroux's past record, but that he told them to dispense with making a written copy of that information. The magistrate has denied the police version.

Naples hail repeat of blood 'miracle'

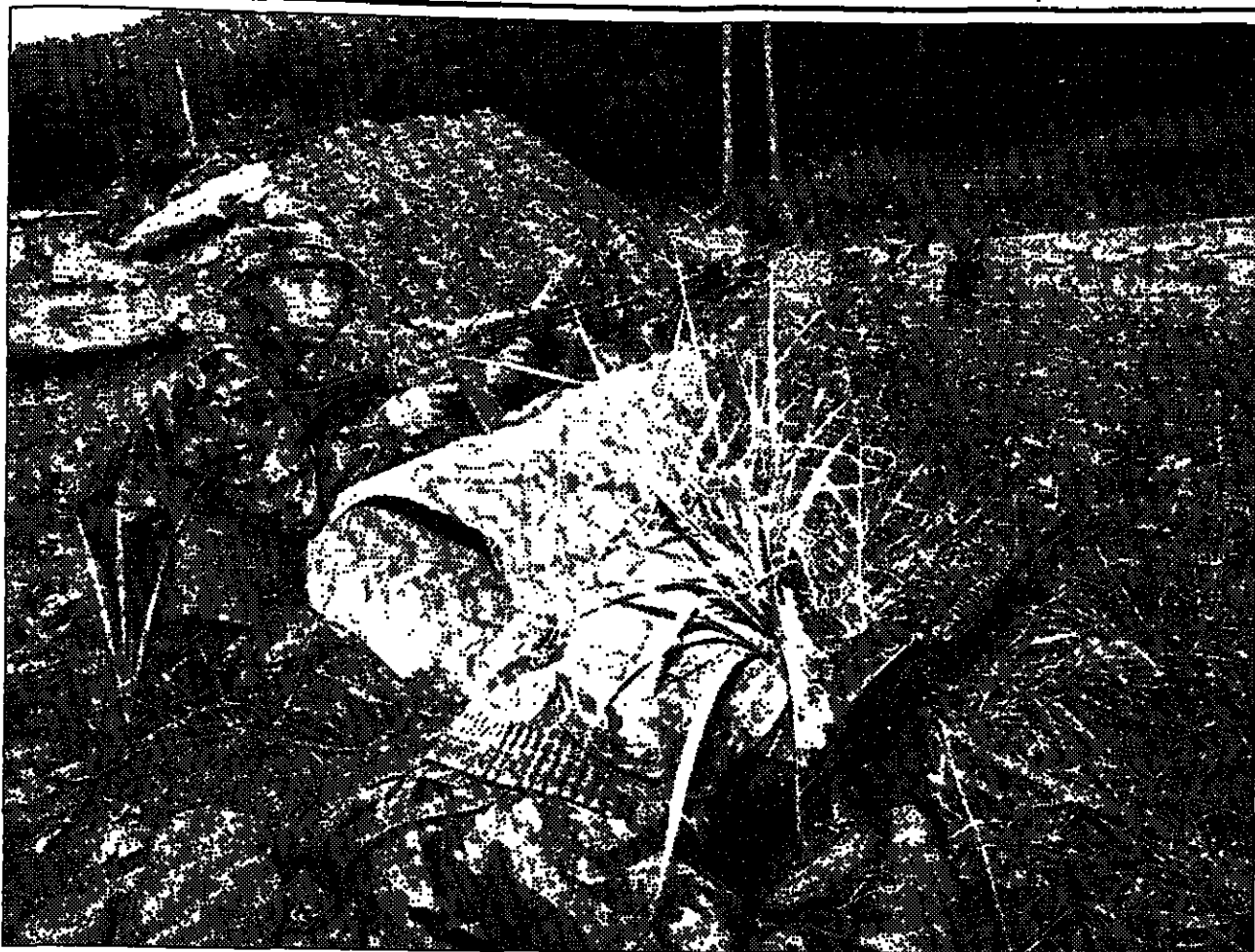
NAPLES, Italy (R) — The substance superstitious Neapolitans believe is the blood of their patron saint liquefied on cue Thursday in a repeat of the three-yearly "miracle" they believe brings good luck. The ritual of San Gennaro's blood took place after some 4,000 worshippers prayed along with the city's archbishop, Cardinal Michele Giordano, in Naples cathedral. Cardinal Giordano urged the faithful to consider the miracle "an invitation to conversion and reflection on the moral ills which afflict our times." He also prayed for the city, one of Italy's most crime-ridden and underdeveloped, and "above all for unemployment, which is reaching unsustainable levels." The phenomenon of San Gennaro's blood is hailed as averting disaster which Neapolitans believe will strike the city if the substance held in a gold phial fails to turn to liquid. The miracle has been recorded on set dates three times a year almost without fail for the past 600 years — Sept. 19, the fourth century saint's feast day, the first Saturday in May and Dec. 16, the anniversary of a 17th century eruption of the nearby volcano, Vesuvius.

China sells out on its famous ice festival

BEIJING (AFP) — The frosty Chinese city of Harbin is planning to sell off its famous ice carving festival to save local government funds, the China Youth Daily reported Friday. In a move that would probably make many of China's revolutionaries turn in their graves, the Harbin municipal government will auction off eight sponsorship rights for this year's Ice and Snow Festival. "In order to conform with the development of the socialist market economy, Harbin authorities will auction the rights to collect funds and settle the problem of money shortage," the newspaper said. The rights — to be sold at a Shenzhen auction — will include sponsorship for the International Ice Carving Competition, where competitors carve great castles and mythical beasts out of ice, attracting large crowds.

Newly discovered turtle 'tastes like chicken'

DARWIN, Australia (AFP) — A species of freshwater turtle known — and enjoyed — by Aboriginals for centuries but unknown to the rest of humanity has been discovered in Northern Australia, scientists here have announced. Known to local Aboriginals as the Wurrung, the turtle is similar to a species known as the northern long neck turtle but distinguished by its flattened head. It was found by biologist Rod Kennett and a team of conservationists near Katherine Gorge in the Northern Territory's Nitmiluk National Park. Mr. Kennett, who hopes to publish a formal description in a scientific journal by next June, said that to discover a whole new species of vertebrates in the mid-1990s was "a colour highlight." However, members of the local Jawoyn people were less impressed. Jawoyn elder Sandy Barroway, who accompanied the scientific expedition that found the turtles, said they had been known to aborigines for hundreds of years. "People used to hunt them with a wooden spear," he said. Denise Harney, 11, who posed for a photograph holding one of the newly discovered specimens, said she could not understand what the fuss was all about. "They taste like chicken," she told journalists.



South Korean soldiers Friday take part in a massive search for North Korean infiltrators who landed by submarine on Sept. 18. So far, eighteen infiltrators out of about 20 who landed in the submarine have been shot and killed — eleven in an apparent mass suicide. One has been captured alive (Reuters photo)

Chechens suspend prisoner exchange

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Chechen rebels said Friday they had suspended prisoner exchanges with Russia on grounds that Moscow had failed to free two Chechen journalists as agreed.

Chechen rebel spokesman Movladi Udugov said the reporters were to have been released Friday but the Russians said they could not free them "for the time being."

"The Chechen side has therefore decided to suspend all prisoner exchanges so long as these two journalists have not been freed," he told AFP.

Mr. Udugov said he had received reports that the two journalists, one of whom is Salman Betelguyev, director of Chechen Independent Television, had

been tortured.

The release of the two had been agreed Tuesday during a meeting between separatist leaders and Alexander Lebed, the Russian national security advisor. Mr. Udugov said.

They were arrested on Aug. 30 at the airport of Makhachkala in the Republic of Dagestan, which neighbours Chechnya, and their luggage which contained video cassettes and separatist newspapers were confiscated.

With both sides accusing each other of compiling fictitious prisoner lists, the question of prisoner exchanges is one of the most contentious between Russians and Chechens who are trying to consolidate a peace deal they signed in

late August.

The Russian military command threatened last week to suspend the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya, agreed in August, because of a lack of agreement on the questions dealing with the exchange of prisoners.

Earlier this week Gen. Lebed, after talks with Chechen leaders, managed to salvage the peace accord when he said the withdrawal would continue beginning Saturday.

Meanwhile in Moscow, Interfax quoted a source at the Russian military command as saying Defence Ministry troops, a small part of Russian forces in Chechnya, would withdraw from the Caucasus republic by mid-December.

TWA crash probes look to mechanical fault

NEW YORK (Reuters) — After two months of failure to find proof that a bomb or a missile destroyed TWA Flight 800, investigators are leaning toward mechanical failure as the cause, newspapers reported Thursday.

The New York Times and the Washington Post quoted investigators as saying that the lack of explosive evidence lent credence to another theory that electrical failure or a fire in the centre fuel tank destroyed the Boeing 747 over Long Island on July 17, killing all 230 people on board.

Officials from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) were not immediately available for comment.

The NTSB and FBI have repeatedly stated since the tragedy that they were working on three theories — a bomb, a missile or mechanical failure — but had insufficient evidence to declare the cause.

"We are getting absolutely nothing as it relates to a bomb," the Washington Post quoted an unidentified law enforcement source as saying. "Things seem to be pointing toward a mechanical malfunction and that is where investigators are concentrating now."

Investigators have discovered two microscopic traces of explosives on parts of wreckage salvaged from the Atlantic Ocean but they were found far apart and in the plane's interior, not blasted into them.

N. Korean agents hold out; U.S. urges calm

KANGNUNG, South Korea (R) — South Korean troops using loudhailers pleaded Friday with the remnants of a North Korean infiltration group to surrender, while the United States urged "all parties" to stay calm.

Troops blasted the message to an estimated half dozen or so agents holed up in a rugged mountain area pitted with disused coal mines, and helicopters scattered leaflets urging surrender after a night of fierce gunfights.

"You are surrounded. If you abandon your weapons and surrender you can live. Most of your colleagues have been shot to death. We urge you to surrender immediately," an army officer shouted repeatedly through a loudspeaker on a military jeep.

Authorities now believe possibly 26 North Koreans came ashore early Wednesday from a submarine near the east coast city of Kangnung. So far, 18 have been shot and killed and one has been captured alive.

Political shockwaves from the incident — one of the deadliest infiltrations of the South since the early cold war — spread wider, clouding prospects for a U.S.-South Korean peace initiative for the divided Korean peninsula.

North and South Korea have been technically at war since their 1950-53 conflict ended with an armistice negotiated by U.S.-led United Nations Forces.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher urged "all parties" to avoid further provocative action. Seoul said it would brief the U.N. Security Council on the drama and Japan denounced the incident as "deplorable."

North Korea accused South Korea of taking "provocative action" near the border earlier this week but made no reference to the submarine incident in a



Three North Korean infiltrators who were shot and killed by South Korean security forces are examined by soldiers near this east coast city Thursday. They were among an estimated eight agents still at large after around 20 North Koreans landed by submarine on a beach near Kangnung; on Sept. 18 (Reuters photo)

radio broadcast.

Mr. Christopher told a news conference: "We wish that all parties would refrain from taking further provocative actions." The United States has 37,000 troops stationed in the south to deter any North Korean attack.

Asked if the incident could affect efforts to provide Pyongyang with nuclear technology and humanitarian aid, he added: "Obviously, the episode is a matter of concern but the facts are so murky."

North Korea is appealing for Western food aid following devastating floods.

The United States is part of an international consortium providing the North with nuclear power plants as part of a deal to end the country's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

Japan hit out at North Korea over the incident.

"We have an interest in peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and it is deplorable that North Korea

has brought about this incident," government spokesman Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference.

"The international community will not accept it. We call on North Korea to immediately end these kinds of actions."

Political analysts said the incident may have damaged the chances of peace on the Korean peninsula by giving ammunition to hardliners in Seoul, who oppose any concessions to the North.

South Korea and the United States are trying to entice Pyongyang to talks, along with China, to work out a peace pact to replace the armistice.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry statement said Seoul's ambassador to the United Nations would brief members of the Security Council Friday on the drama.

The infiltration was "an obvious violation of the armistice agreement and a grave threat to peace and

security on the Korean peninsula," the statement said.

South Korea is one of 15 members of the Security Council, whose permanent members are the United States, China, Russia, Britain and France.

Domestic media reports said the captured man, Lee Kwang-Soo, 31, told interrogators 26 North Koreans landed on a beach. Three were trained saboteurs, two guides and the rest crew members.

The saboteurs — deadly operatives trained to survive behind enemy lines during war — were still at large, he said.

A South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman declined to comment on the reports.

The public in South Korea has reacted with anger and anxiety to the infiltration. Some blame the navy for failing to detect the submarine and worry the country is vulnerable to attack from its arch-enemy to the north.

Rebel ambush kills 4 in Burundi

BUJUMBURA (Agencies) — Hutu rebels killed four people and wounded four others in an attack on a minibus in central Burundi, military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Isiaie Nibizi said Friday.

The attack took place Thursday afternoon near Rutegama on the highway between the capital Bujumbura and the small highland nation's second largest town, Gitega.

Col. Nibizi said there were many Hutu rebels operating in the region, where a soldier escorting a lorry was shot and wounded near Gitega in another attack Thursday.

On Friday, Bujumbura was again partially deprived of electricity, but Col. Nibizi said the latest blackout was not due to rebel sabotage of power lines and blamed it on a technical fault which was being repaired.

Extremist rebels of the Hutu majority, fighting the Tutsi-dominated army have sabotaged the main power lines serving the capital several times and cut electricity supplies between the end of August and last Tuesday, when they were restored.

The army says it has reinforced the troops protecting the power cables, which cross the seriously troubled province of Bubanza in the northeast of the central African nation.

The lack of electricity has hit economic activity in Burundi hard and comes on top of shortages of fuel and other essential products because of an embargo imposed on the country by its neighbours on July 31.

Burundi's Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama called on regional African gov-

ernments to lift their economic sanctions, which he said were helping Hutu rebels fighting the military-led Tutsi government.

Regional leaders imposed sanctions on landlocked Burundi on July 31 in an attempt to force Tutsi military leader Pierre Buyoya, who seized power in an army coup on July 25, to agree to peace negotiations with rebels of the Hutu majority.

"Genocidal armed groups and their political leaders who move freely outside the country have been encouraged and are intensifying its destruction from within as much as from without," Mr. Rukingama told journalists and diplomats in the capital Bujumbura.

He said the sanctions were having a major impact in all spheres and would have to be lifted soon to avoid Burundi sinking deeper into the mire of hunger, unemployment, high inflation and civil disorder.

His appeal came a day after Hutu rebels killed three civilians in an ambush on a minibus taxi near Rumonge, 75 kilometres south of the capital, according to an army spokesman.

Maj. Buyoya was installed by the army on July 25, after the overthrow of Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibunganya, who has been holed up in the U.S. ambassador's residence since then.

Mr. Rukingama said the military government had offered talks to the rebels but had been rebuffed with vows of intensified armed struggle.

NATO plans 'super PFP' to ease expansion

HELSINKI (R) — NATO planners are developing a "super" Partnership For Peace to embrace countries likely to be left out of the first wave of expansion of the alliance, its secretary-general and Western diplomats said Thursday.

With the Western alliance likely to accept some former Communist countries into its fold next year, diplomats say some Non-Aligned nations and unsuccessful NATO candidates may join a tighter grouping of would-be members and affiliates.

Russia could also join this intensified Partnership For Peace — dubbed "PFP-II," "enhanced PFP" or "PFP plus" — which aims to boost non-members' military cooperation and political contact with NATO, a U.S. diplomat told Reuters.

"Let's include the Russians," said Derek Shearer, U.S. ambassador to Finland.

The plan aims to demonstrate to Russia that NATO is not belligerent and ease the concerns of countries that may fall into a security "grey zone" after the alliance expands.

"A 'PFP plus' should generate the necessary reassurance that the security of an enlarged NATO and its partners remains closely linked," said NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana.

Of the 27 current members of the PFP scheme aimed at uniting former European foes, Mr. Shearer said between 15 and 20 could join a super PFP, which could involve specific liaison officers and working groups and would be based on charters.

"It's just a notion of enhancing PFP to show where we're going in Europe," he said.

The scheme builds on a milestone speech by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Stuttgart earlier

this month in which he outlined a vision of a new Atlantic community which would erase former cold war barriers.

Mr. Christopher spoke of forming a new Atlantic Partnership Council based on a charter between NATO and Russia and said the alliance should involve non-members in the PFP programme.

NATO's Solana, in a speech to the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), said the current scheme was already the most successful military cooperation programme in Europe's history.

"But (it) has to be upgraded and deepened to reflect the new situation which will exist after NATO enlargement," he said.

"This could entail, among other things, offering interested partners greater involvement in NATO military planning, activities and structures as well as in consultations with the alliance."

Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland are widely regarded as top of the list for inclusion in an expanded NATO. Other former Soviet bloc states including the Baltic countries, Romania and Bulgaria are less likely to make it into the first round.

"You don't want them feeling this means 'no' forever," Mr. Shearer said.

The scheme could also embrace non-aligned and neutral countries — Finland, Sweden and Austria — which do not currently seek NATO membership, offsetting concerns that NATO expansion may be seen as recreating "zones of influence."

For instance, Finland, Sweden and the three Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, have said expansion in Central Europe may leave former Soviet satellites in a security void which, under some circumstances, Russia could try to fill.

Cambodia rules out top posts for Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) —

Cambodia's Second Prime Minister Hun Sen has ruled out senior government and military posts for break-away Khmer Rouge guerrillas and warned they risked alienation if they persisted with their demands.

"We cannot offer (them these posts). It is impossible," Mr. Hun Sen said Friday.

Mr. Hun Sen said the separatists would become a third force opposed by both the government and the hardline Khmer Rouge forces if they insisted on their demands.

"They will face and fight both Pol Pot and the government sides. It would give their people many difficulties and then Pol Pot can come back to control their areas," he told the Cam-

bodian Bar Association.

Commanders of Khmer Rouge divisions which last month broke with the mainstream Khmer Rouge demanded at peace talks Tuesday that the government give them one armed forces deputy chief of staff post and a deputy chief of staff position in the Interior Ministry.

They also sought a regional military chief post, three regional deputy chief posts and requested that their Pailin stronghold remain under their control as the centre of a new province in the northwest.

Mr. Hun Sen said these posts were much more senior than those held by any of the commanders loyal to dissident leader Ieng Sary, foreign minister during the brutal 1975-79

Khmer Rouge "killing fields" regime.

He said senior positions for the guerrillas in the armed forces and Interior Ministry were not a precondition for peace.

"If today Ieng Sary comes with a group and we offer them a deputy chief of staff post and then Son Sen comes, we offer another one, Khieu Samphan comes, we offer another one — in the end, the Khmer Rouge will hold every post on the general staff."

Khieu Samphan is the nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge and Son Sen is the guerrillas' defence chief.

Mr. Ieng Sary, who has accepted a Royal amnesty, said after forging a ceasefire earlier this month that the government must clarify his legal status if the peace

talks were to advance.

Mr. Ieng Sary and Mr. Pol Pot were sentenced to death in absentia for their roles in the genocide of more than one million people during the Maoist Khmer Rouge's rule in the late 1970s.

King Norodom Sihanouk signed Mr. Ieng Sary's amnesty last Saturday.

This allowed a military working group to meet for the first time Tuesday in the Pailin stronghold, where guerrilla commanders Sok Peap and Ei Chien put their demands.

First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Thursday that creating a new province around Pailin should not be a problem but the districts and number of people to be included must be determined first.

Ukraine admits higher Chernobyl radiation

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian officials said Thursday that neutron radiation readings had risen considerably inside the Chernobyl nuclear plant's ruined fourth reactor and called for new efforts to rebuild the "sarcophagus" housing it.

Viktor Baryakhtar, vice-president of Ukraine's Academy of Sciences, told Ukrainian news agency that readings of neutron activity in the cracking steel and concrete "sarcophagus" covering the reactor had risen by five to 110 times this week.

Independent experts said even those readings posed no immediate danger, 10 years after the reactor caught fire and exploded in the world's worst civil nuclear disaster.

President Leonid Kuchma, who has pledged to close Chernobyl by the year 2000, expressed concern over the state of the sarcophagus at talks with an envoy of the G7 wealthy countries, one of the chief paymasters in financing the

shutdown.

Mr. Baryakhtar, Mr. Kuchma's top nuclear adviser, described the increased readings as a "chain reaction" which had lasted from four to five hours Monday.

"This is a rather dangerous phenomenon which has been observed three times this year," he told Ukrainians.

"The main reason is leakage under the sarcophagus of rainwater, which speeds up neutrons. The only way to avoid these instances is to build a new structure around the sarcophagus without delay."

One independent report this week said neutron radiation readings twice normal levels had been recorded inside the "tomb" hurriedly erected around the reactor after the 1986 disaster.

But it said rises of tens of thousands times the norm would be required to cause a new nuclear reaction.

Mr. Baryakhtar's statement, and its appearance on Ukraine's official news

agency, appeared aimed at pressing for quicker action in replacing the sarcophagus.

"Such levels are still well below anything constituting a danger but it is important to understand just what is happening inside there. It all must be explained," Patrick Michaille, a French nuclear safety expert in Ukraine, told Reuters.

"If levels continue to be abnormal that makes the problem of the sarcophagus more urgent. The Ukrainians are clearly trying to draw attention to this. But even if more money is allocated that does not necessarily deal with the problem."

Ukraine's top negotiator on closing Chernobyl, Environment Minister Yuri Kostenko, initially suggested Wednesday that the readings were caused by faulty equipment.

But he later said that, if the levels proved correct, they required quick investigation which Ukraine could not afford.

At a meeting attended by G7 ambassadors, special envoy Claude Mandil handed Mr. Kuchma a letter from French President Jacques Chirac, the current G7 chairman, responding to Kiev's plea to speed up promised aid and grants of about \$3 billion.

A spokesman said Mr. Kuchma expressed concern to Mr. Mandil about delays in financing construction of two unfinished reactors at other power stations "and the 200 tonnes of nuclear fuel under the sarcophagus. I expect clear decisions on this from G7."

Mr. Kuchma was also meeting a senior official of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is negotiating a separate financing accord on Chernobyl.

Ukraine has complained that Western efforts have focused on restructuring the former Soviet republic's energy sector and do not recognise a new sarcophagus as an urgent priority.

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Where lines should be drawn

IN ITS latest issue, the Islamist weekly, Al Sabeel, quoting Islamic parliamentary sources, printed a story that points a grim picture of how the authorities allegedly question detainees. The newspaper quoted the source as saying that Issam Najjar, a Hamas activist, was tortured extensively during a two-week period by the security forces. The newspaper editor, Hilmi Asmer, was subsequently arrested, presumably for publishing the article in violation of the Press and Publications Law.

The law, which journalists did not fully endorse when it was passed by Parliament in 1993, is expected to be amended by the government to grant journalists more freedoms in pursuing information and publishing stories and opinions, while requiring greater responsibility from the journalists for what they publish, ministers say.

Meanwhile, whether or not Mr. Asmer and his colleagues at Al Sabeel violated the law will be determined by the court. But the magistrates will not look into the authenticity of the Sabeel report on alleged detainee abuses printed in its last week's edition. The court will not look into the fact that Al Sabeel is not the only party that is pressing the charge of torture. Opposition deputies are also. And some of those people who were detained in the past few weeks are making similar allegations.

Two factors appear to be missing here: a denial from the authorities of any claim of torture, and a verification carried out by an independent body. So far neither Amnesty International nor the Arab Organisation for Human Rights has issued any comment on the matter. The much-delayed Centre for the Study of Democracy, Freedom and Human Rights in the Arab World is yet to be born. Until that day, some action must be taken to put to rest once and for all all allegations about torture and mistreatment of detainees.

We, therefore, agree with the proposal made by Deputy Bassam Enoush to set up an independent body to investigate the issue. We also support the suggestion that prison conditions should also come under close scrutiny by all branches of government and human rights organisations. Over the past seven years, the country has laboured to earn international recognition as a pluralistic democracy where basic human rights are observed and respected. Jordan was among the first nations in the world to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It since ratified the International Convention against torture.

At this advanced stage of our political and social development, even the appearance of condoning torture and abuse of prisoners or suspects is highly damaging. The Kingdom's laws are specific about the due process of law and applicable penalties. It is the courts, not any individual or institution, which decides a person's guilt or innocence. And one of the main principles of the law is that statements and confessions made under duress are inadmissible.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE RECENT developments in Iraq have proved to the world that it is Iraq, and not Kuwait, that is threatened and exposed to aggression, that the aggressor is the United States and not Saddam Hussein and that the oil and not saving the Kurds is the ultimate objective of the U.S. administration, said Taher Al Adwan, a writer for Al Dustour. This became clearer with the American massing of planes, warships and troops in and around the Arabian Peninsula and was further manifested in the disarray in the ranks of the U.S.-led coalition of nations that fought the Iraqis in the 1991 war, said the writer. Furthermore, he said, the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo, which rejected Washington's handling of the situation and warned all foreign nations against tampering with Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, were clear replies to America's ongoing drive against Baghdad. Not only have the Arab countries, particularly Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria, retreated from their 1991 stand of siding by the United States, but, said the writer, foreign powers like France and Russia have also rejected the U.S. interference in Iraq's internal affairs and voiced their opposition to any further missile attacks on Iraqi territory.

A WRITER for Al Dustour demanded that the government enact a law that would enable a person who has been imprisoned for some time, and then proved to be innocent and set free to sue the concerned authorities and ask for compensation for the time he spent in detention. Mohammad Subeih said that in democratic countries any person who is not only detained but also charged and tried in court but proven innocent and acquitted has the right to sue the concerned authorities and demand reasonable compensation for unjust treatment. Regrettably, in Jordan, people cannot do that and cannot sue the government, said the writer, who noted that recently, there have been recurrent reports about persons unjustly detained and later released without any charges. He said that the court files show that thousands of citizens have been held in detention for days and weeks but they were proved to be innocent by courts and later set free. These unfortunate citizens must have sustained losses in a business, were prevented from leading a normal life, prevented from leaving the country for business abroad and lost great chances for work or education, among others, for which, he said, they are entitled to compensation from the state, especially if they were refused to pay bail for their release until the date of trial in court.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Netanyahu's double standard jeopardises the peace process

DESPITE THE flurry of contacts between Israeli and Palestinian leaders and officials, the sad fact remains that there is very little movement towards the real issues at stake between the two sides. For all practical purposes, the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seems bent upon giving the world an impression that it is dedicated to peace while it actually implements policies and measures designed to achieve just the opposite.

There cannot be any other explanation to the Israeli approvals for expanding settlements, ban against Palestinians using roads in their own land and moves against Palestinian institutions in Arab East Jerusalem and elsewhere in the West Bank.

We do not exactly know what transpired between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on Wednesday at the Erez crossing point. But, judging from public comments of the two after the meeting, it seems unlikely that the discussion was much beyond a photo opportunity that fits in with Netanyahu's campaign to project himself as committed to making peace with the Palestinians. He might indeed be committed to that objective, but then the question is: At what price for the Palestinians?

Now the Israeli government has turned its guns on the European Union (EU), a strong supporter of the Palestinian struggle, by warning that its envoys should not

meet with Palestinian officials at the Orient House, the headquarters of the Palestinian negotiating team with Israel. Adding insult to injury was an implicit warning by Netanyahu to the Europeans that they did not realise the implications of setting up an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

If anything, as some Israelis themselves suggest, Netanyahu seems to be the one who needs an intensive crash course on the realities of the Middle East rather than the Europeans, who have, by and large, backed the legitimate Palestinian demand for political and territorial rights in Palestinian land.

Netanyahu is fooling no one but himself by using every opportunity to declare that there would be no Palestinian state and no "redirection" of Jerusalem but that he still wants peace with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu, who is also refusing to accept undertakings provided by his predecessors in the context of Syria, should know very well that these are positions that could not be reconciled with the overall objective of just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Israeli prime minister's attack on Egypt shows very clearly his frustrations that the Arabs have grown wiser to his deceitful approach to the peace process. Obviously, Netanyahu was hoping to advance Israel's economic goals at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Cairo in November without actually meeting

the basic requirements of peace with the Palestinians. By threatening to scrap the conference, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak highlighted the double-standard Israeli approach.

Indeed, the summit will take place in Cairo, as scheduled, but it seems to be a foregone conclusion that Israel and those Arabs who genuinely seek a new era of cooperation in the region have to scale down their expectations.

Netanyahu should also appreciate and realise that his policies and measures are putting us, Jordanians, in a difficult situation. On the one hand, we in Jordan are committed to maintaining and nurturing peace with Israel and also building close economic cooperation in the spirit of good neighbourliness, in the emerging new world economic order. But we cannot simply ignore Netanyahu's deliberate efforts to deny the Palestinians their rights and continue to do business as usual.

He should respect the Jordanian stand that the Kingdom's relations with Israel cannot be built at the expense of our cherished ties with the Arabs in general and, of course, the Palestinians in particular. As such, Netanyahu will be well-advised to take Jordan for granted and believe that the Kingdom's efforts to improve its economy through regional cooperation and the slack in Arab assistance to Amman would prompt us to ignore his pointed endeavours at destroying what has been achieved so far in the Middle East peace process.

'U.S. aggression on Iraq affects the whole Arab region'

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

IN THE past week, articles and editorials in the local press continued to dwell on the situation in the Middle East in light of the developments in Iraq and the Palestinian lands. The articles also covered a host of domestic issues.

A writer for Al Ra'i Arabic daily urged the government to lift the sanctions unjustly imposed on Iraq and remove all restrictions that have caused so many losses to Jordan and so much suffering to the Iraqi people. Fahed Al Fanek said Jordan and the Jordanians support Iraq in the face of aggression by external powers because Iraq is part of the Arab Nation, because aggression on Iraq is adversely affecting Jordan's economy and because it is the Arab Nation's duty to support Iraq as brothers and kinsmen. He said that the hostile propaganda campaigns have, for the past five years, accused writers and intellectuals who call for an end to the aggression on Iraq of being in the pay of the Iraqi regime, but the time has come to put matters in their right perspective.

The writer said that the United States has been acting unilaterally and without any mandate from the U.N. Security Council against Iraq which has complied with all the U.N. resolutions. He said that if the U.S. is keen on protecting its own interests in the Arab oil, Jordan has its own national interests in Iraqi markets which used to absorb 30 per cent of the Jordanian products. America should not be called the police of the world but rather the international pirate which bullies all other countries that do not agree with its views, said Hamadeh Faraneh, a writer for Al Dustour.

The U.S. would be glad to be called the police of the world because the character of a policeman is to bring about justice, but its inhuman behaviour and its aggression on Iraq, said the writer, expose this superpower as a bully or an international pirate.

A policeman is supposed to deter acts by outlaws, like Israel which continues to occupy other countries' lands and continues to disregard the international legitimacy and the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

America, he said, is doing nothing of this kind, it is rather maintaining continued aggression on a Third World country. The writer said the U.S. is rewarding the outlaw which is Israel, and itself committing acts of piracy and imposing its will on others by force, against all international principles and rules.

Under the pretext of liberating Kuwait from a short-lived Iraqi occupation, the United States has secured its occupation of the whole of the Arab World, said Taher Al Adwan, a writer for Al Dustour.

Under the pretext of defending Kuwait, the U.S. is imposing its siege not only on Iraq but on the whole Arab Nation through its own missiles and war planes and by proxy through its strategic ally in the region: Israel, said the writer.

There is only one defence minister for the region who is now sitting in the Pentagon, imposing hegemony on the Arabs who seem to be at a loss after losing their independence and free will, said the writer. While the Arab regimes continue to condone America's actions in the region, their own people

are continually facing starvation, poverty and unemployment, and while the U.S.-Israeli alliance maintains its hold on the Arabs, the Middle East is facing an escalation of tension that would lead to renewed conflicts.

In the face of continued Israeli intransigence and its adamant position concerning the occupation of Arab lands, the Arab foreign ministers demanded that the peace process continue and that Israel comply with the requirements of peace through implementing its Oslo accord with the Palestinians and the U.N.

message to the Israeli government, but, said the writer, it remains to be seen whether Israel would respond favourably and positively and whether the United States, the sponsor of the peace process, would exercise its pressure on Tel Aviv to ensure an Israeli compliance with the requirements of a just peace.

Ibrahim Al Absi, a writer for Al Ra'i, daily cited a statement by Pope Shnuade, head of the Christian Coptic church in Egypt, who said recently that the Arabs have allowed Jerusalem to be lost to the

policies, its building of settlements and its refusal to recognise the Arab people's rights, the writer said that unless action is taken, Jerusalem will be lost to the Jews for ever.

The challenge, he said, is directed at the Palestinians, as well as the Arabs and Muslims around the world, who should not allow Israel to maintain its hold on Jerusalem which represents the pride of the Arab and Islamic worlds and which constitutes the key to peace in the Middle East.

Mohammad Daoud, a writer for Al Dustour, called on the government to

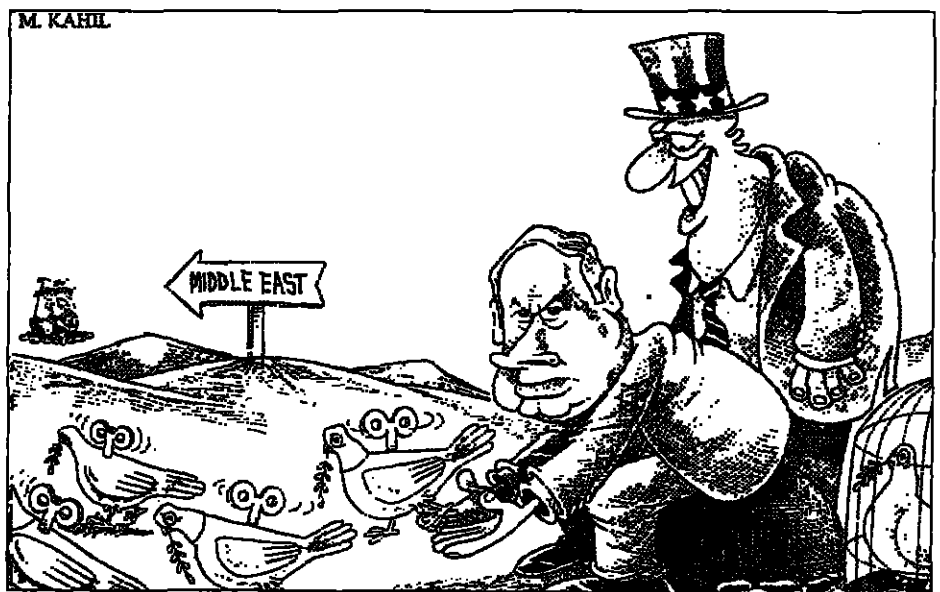
sidy caused the prices of bread and other commodities to shoot up, prompting the Ministry of Supply to take firm action against merchants and violators of the law, noted the writer.

He said if the government allows the prices to be floated, there can be no limit to the greed of certain merchants and there can be no security for the poor.

He said it is in the interest of the country as a whole, and of the government in particular, to avert any new crises over the prices of basic commodities and the concerned authority should learn a lesson from the recent events in the wake of the lifting of subsidy on the bread and animal feed.

Commenting on recent reports that the government is considering holding early general elections, Bassam Haddadin, a writer for Al Ra'i and a member of Parliament, said that as a safe measure, first the government ought to arrange for open dialogue, involving deputies and various sectors of the public, to reach a common and acceptable decision on this issue.

The writer said that under the present situation, it is rather against the interest of the country and the majority of the deputies themselves to hold early elections, adding that extending the mandate of the present Parliament would be even more beneficial for the government, which has a comfortable majority in the Lower House, ensuring continued support for its policies. The writer said that the government should instead introduce a new election law that would be more just than the present law, ensuring right representation in the House of the various sectors of public. He said that the holding of elections could then be based on the new law.



resolutions, said Mahmoud Rimawi.

The Arab ministers who met in Cairo tried to follow up on the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the Arab heads of state in their recent Cairo summit meeting by stressing the need for Israel to adhere to the requirements of peace if it wants to become an accepted entity in the Middle East region, said the writer.

The foreign ministers' meeting has sent a clear

refrain from floating the prices of basic commodities, warning that such a move would be devastating to the low-income groups who live under the poverty line.

The writer said that there can be no guarantee for preventing the merchants from hiking prices at will, except through a central government control. Minister of Supply Munir Sobar, himself, admitted that the recent government's change of the form of sub-

is under study, but has not been decided. If such an administrative consolidation is made, it would affect only the management of the Amman office, not its programmatic activity."

Raymond A. Riddick
Director, PMP,
Amman.

Editor's note: The Jordan Times staff reporter, Elia Nassrallah, faithfully reproduced the quotes that Mr. Riddick made when the writer interviewed him by telephone on Monday.

'As the priest says...'

To the Editor:

AS THE regional director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine (PMP) in Amman, I was shocked and embarrassed to see my name associated with the article, "Pontifical mission closes: accusations fly," (Jordan Times, Sept. 19-20, 1996).

I categorically deny the quotes attributed to me regarding the closing of the Pontifical Mission office in Amman. Such statements are completely false and misleading.

The assertion that I was directed to cease all operations by the end of September is false, as is the state-

ment that the staff of PMP has been served notice. I did not confirm to your staff reporter that PMP is closing its office in Amman.

There can be no doubt that PMP has always enjoyed excellent relations with the churches of Jordan. Every attempt has been made by me and previous directors to be of assistance and serve the poor with whatever resources were available to us.

The misquote that portrays the local church as being uncooperative with the PMP is most unfortunate. Neither our history in Jordan nor the ongoing ministry of the churches supports such an accusation. For the record, I assure you, this piece of information is not true, and did not come from me.

The truth of the matter is, as the President of PMP, Monsignor Robert L. Stern has stated, "an administrative consolidation" of its Amman and Jerusalem offices

is under study, but has not been decided. If such an administrative consolidation is made, it would affect only the management of the Amman office, not its programmatic activity."

Upward trend at AFM lures individual investors

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The stock market maintained an upward trend last week, with prices gaining under one per cent and trading shooting up by nearly 40 per cent with individual investors taking keen interest, brokers said Friday.

They said the recent flare-up in Iraq and U.S.-Iraq tension did not leave a lasting impact on the Jordanian monetary scene, with most investors looking at the positive side of things unrelated to Iraq.

However, blue chips like Arab Bank, the Jordan Cement Factories Company and the Arab Potash Company were the star performers in the market last week. The Arab Bank closed at an all-time high of JD251 this year they noted.

Government moves to boost confidence in the Jordanian economy were one of the key factors behind investor enthusiasm in the market, brokers said.

"Investors have detected a high level of seriousness on the part of the government to pursue sweeping reforms towards economic liberalisation and this has

given a new impetus to business in the stock market," said a broker, who cannot be identified by name under standing guidelines.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said turnover for the business week ending Thursday was JD9.6 million, about 38 per cent over the previous week's JD7.5 million.

The report said six million shares changed hands under 5,135 deals concluded during the week, with daily average trading rising to JD1.9 million from the previous week's JD1.5 million.

The official AFM share price index based on 60 major companies closed at 149.49 points, up 1.07 points or 0.72 per cent, the report showed.

Sectoral indices showed industrials gaining 1.82 per cent, services sector stocks 0.32 per cent, insurance shares 0.04 per cent and commercial banks and financial institutions 0.01 per cent.

Industrials accounted for JD4.08 million of the weekly volume, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with

JD3.82 million services sector firms with 1.62 million and insurance companies with JD6,000.

Stocks of 96 firms were involved in the week's business, with 53 companies closing with gains, 31 slipping and 12 remaining unchanged.

Pearl Consulting, a private sector firm which maintains its own market indicators, said its general share price index closed with a gain of 0.69 per cent.

Pearl's sectoral indices showed commercial banks and financial institutions gain 1.10 per cent, insurance 0.49 per cent and industrials 1.14 per cent while services sector shares slipped by 1.35 per cent.

In the banking sector, commercial banks slipped by 0.48 per cent, investment banks gained 5.36 per cent, specialised banks 2.94 per cent and Islamic banks one per cent.

In the services sector, energy firms gained 0.32 per cent, tourism companies and hotels slipped by 0.89 per cent, transport companies gained 1.38 per cent, investment and real estate firms lost 1.04 per cent and press and publication companies dipped by

5.45 per cent while companies in the education sector and related areas gained 0.96 per cent.

Among industrials, mining firms gained 1.67 per cent and chemical and petroleum companies 2.94 per cent. Firms in the supply and consumption sector gained 0.36 per cent, pharmaceuticals 0.67 per cent, engineering firms 0.4 per cent and textiles 0.41 per cent. Packing businesses slipped by 0.1 per cent.

Brokers said government measures aimed at accelerating privatisation of state entities and the commercialisation ahead of eventual privatisation of two monopolies in power generation and telecommunications had largely convinced investors that the executive authority was serious towards economic liberalisation.

Adding further enthusiasm was an Israeli agreement to expand the scope of Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories. Israel, in an April 1994 agreement with the Palestinians, had limited the number and nature of products that the West Bank and Gaza Strip could import from Jordan.

Jordan's Investment Promotion Corporation plans new incentives

By Christina Schlegl
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the new Investment Promotion Law that came into effect last January and that provides local and foreign investors with additional incentives and tax exemptions, particularly in sectors of agriculture, hotels, hospitals, maritime transport and industry, the Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC) says it is moving ahead with plans for additional attractions.

Focusing on the advantages of the law Reem Badran, assistant general manager of the Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC), told the Jordan Times that already, the import of machines, furniture and fixed assets have been excluded from custom's duties.

But many business people, specially agencies and representatives of large foreign companies, are still complaining about high import taxes which can go up to 30-35 per cent.

"The tax exemptions," Mrs. Badran explained, "are only valid for the sectors mentioned above. If other areas want to benefit from them as well they have to apply for a licence from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and show proof of eligibility."

In the field of tax exemptions, the Kingdom has been divided into three different regions A, B and C, according to the level of economic development.

The percentage taken from income and social services taxes thereby depends on the location of the projects. For example, exemptions applicable to the

industrial sector would designate the Marka district as A, Gizeh as B and Karak would fall under C.

These projects will receive what the IPC calls a "tax holiday" granted for 10 years and will benefit the companies as follows: projects in region A will be granted a 25 per cent reduction from the 15 per cent income tax. B-projects have to pay 50 per cent less, and C-projects get 75 per cent off.

Projects being planned in one of Amman's industrial areas - Sahab or Medinat al-Hassan - receive another "holiday" for two additional years.

The granting of exemptions is up to the Investment Promotion Committee which decides whether the application complies with the law and related regulations.

The committee consists of five people representing the following institutions: the IPC, the Chamber of Trade and Industry, the private sector, the Customs Department and the Income Tax Department.

On the foreign investors' side the law stipulates that whole ownerships and any form of partnerships are allowed even though expropriation is prevented.

"Sectors of strategic importance for the country," Mrs. Badran said, "are exceptions. Foreign investors cannot own more than 50 per cent."

This refers to land and air transport, construction and

contracting, commerce and commercial services, banking and insurance, telecommunications, agriculture, production and investments in the Amman Financial Market.

The minimum amount of non-Jordanian investment in any project is JD100,000 whereas the Amman Financial Market is an exception with the necessary amount of JD1,000.

Apart from these advantages stipulated in the law, the IPC in cooperation with the Customs Department introduced new regulations to facilitate business transactions.

"Last week the Customs Department implemented a new system to ease customs clearance of imported goods," Mrs. Badran explained. Procedures such as the green and red lane system at airports, where arriving passengers state whether they have articles to declare, have been implemented months ago.

According to Mrs. Badran, another improvement which is scheduled to come into effect next year is a cooperation between the local Customs Department and an as yet unnamed foreign company which will check goods imported to the Kingdom.

The necessary custom's declaration papers will be issued in advance by the company and thus there will be no time-wasted in checking goods upon arrival.

Following an increased demand for business partners in the field of finance or know-how, the IPC recently set up a match-making division.

This division is dedicated to assisting local and foreign investors in locating compatible partners for their projects. The IPC circulated a profile form to local companies which is designed to measure a firm's rate of adaptability with another.

In order to deal with companies' problems, the IPC also opened a complaint division, which has, according to Mrs. Badran, plenty of work and tries to assist the firms wherever possible.

The IPC's future plans also include the establishment of a one-stop-shop. This concept aims at investors (both local and foreign), to streamline the paper work involved in opening a new business.

The organisation will contact all the necessary institutions, talk to ministries and arrange the red tape for them.

(Continued on page 9)

Industrial investment in Arab Gulf states reaches almost \$63 billion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states have pumped nearly \$63 billion into industrial projects in a drive to diversify their economies and lessen reliance on volatile oil earnings, official figures have showed.

Petrochemicals accounted for more than half the industrial investment in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), receiving about \$35.3 billion, the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) said.

The investments, mostly during the 1980s, covered 6,431 industrial units

employing 473,000 people, the Doha-based GOIC said in a study.

About half the projects are based in Saudi Arabia, by far the largest GCC member, which controls more than a quarter of the world's oil wealth.

GCC states have launched an industrialisation campaign to diversify their sources of income, which is still heavily dependent on oil exports.

But the bulk of their industries are light products as they lack the know-how for heavy industries. They include mainly chemicals,

clothes and textiles, building materials, home appliances and food products.

The huge industrial investments have pushed the sector's contribution to the gross domestic product to more than 12 per cent from less than seven per cent in the 1980s. Industrial exports also peaked at around \$15 billion in 1995 from nearly \$5 billion in early 1980s.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia with Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates in an economic, defence and political alliance created in

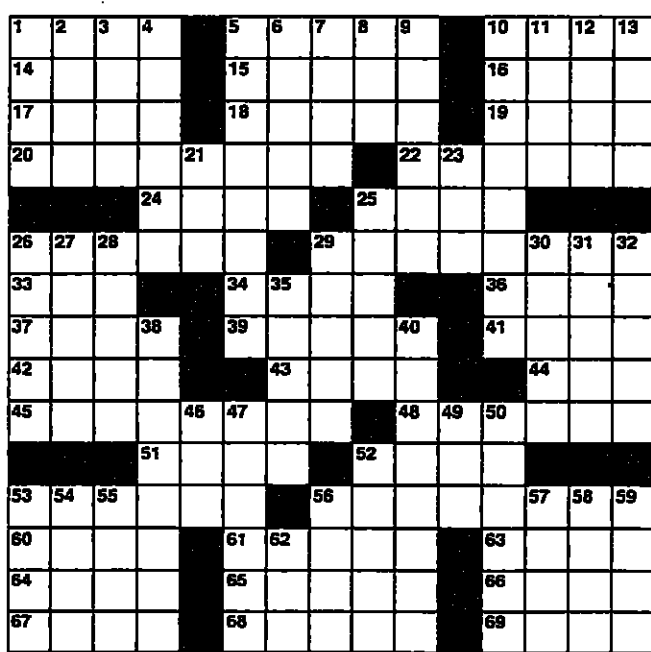
1981. It forms the largest oil bloc in history, possessing nearly 45 per cent of the global crude reserves and producing one fifth of the world's supplies.

THE Daily Crossword by Philip J. Anderson

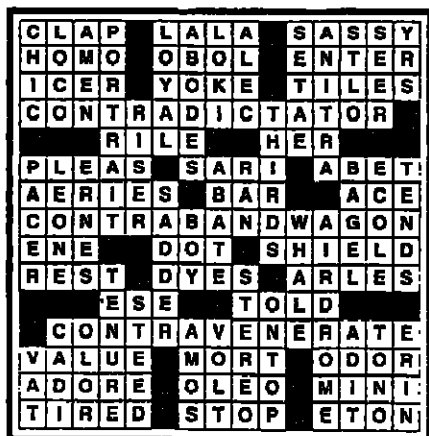
ACROSS

- 1 Close-mouthed one
- 5 Northern highway
- 10 Olympic swimmer Biondi
- 14 Home for a queen?
- 15 Consume slowly
- 16 To — (perfectly)
- 17 Arabian chieftain
- 18 Guffae
- 19 Wad
- 20 Batting champion of the 70s
- 22 Three-bagger
- 24 Inspected
- 25 Baldwin of film
- 26 Rue
- 29 Most saucy
- 33 Hockey great
- 34 Corner
- 36 Jai —
- 37 — shark
- 39 Tiny amounts
- 41 Deceive into trustfulness
- 42 McClurg of TV
- 43 Flying prefix
- 44 Famous John?
- 45 Washington team, once
- 48 Chum
- 51 Cincinnati team
- 52 "The Man"
- 53 Abased
- 56 Home run champion of old
- 60 Mala —
- 61 — toast
- 63 Dairy case item
- 64 Woeful word
- 65 Coral island
- 66 Davis and Jillian
- 67 Ball attendees, for short
- 68 Prize name
- 69 See regularly

- #### DOWN
- 1 "Moonstruck" award winner
 - 2 Long car, for short
 - 3 Eager

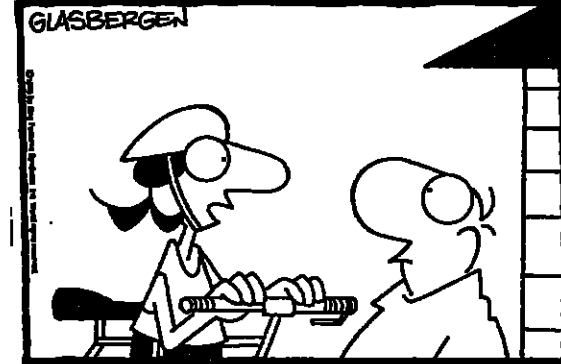


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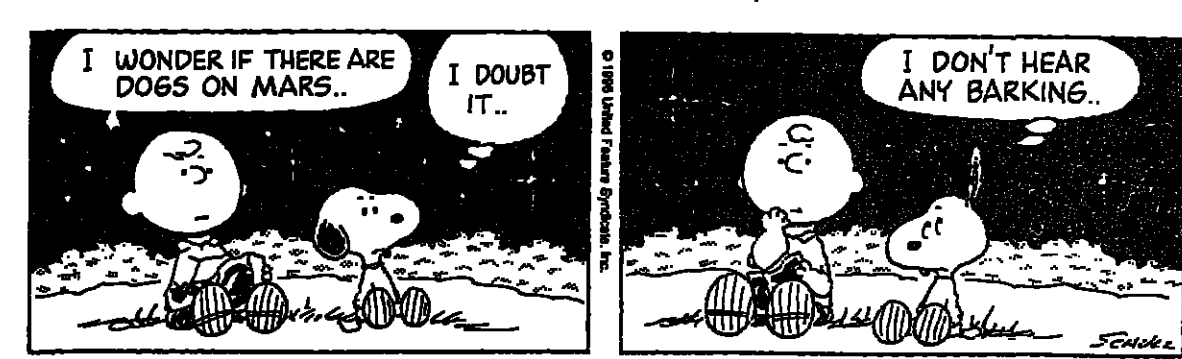


- 40 Diamond game
- 46 NFL and PGA
- 55 Graceful horse
- 56 Splotch
- 57 Partner of radius
- 58 Big top
- 59 Stockings
- 62 Ike's command

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll Wright
Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Handle the small conditions at home so that all is improved quickly. Listen to suggestions of loved ones which can be helpful to you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Handle the errands and communications with others which are important to you today. This evening, enjoy a fine companion.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go after collections and pay bills to the best of your ability at this time and find yourself in a better position for prosperity.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study your reflection in the mirror today and think about how to improve your appearance to be successful. Have fun this evening with loved ones.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at private affairs today and they are soon behind you. Make the evening a very dramatic one. Drive with care while on the highway.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day today to buy the articles you need, but be sure to get them at the right places. A person of experience can be of help.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Complete some career activities and be out in the public early in the daytime today. This is a good day to ask favours of bigwigs at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a fine day today to get into all kinds of periodicals which will give you the data you need. You can find the articles you want the most.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study the promises you have made today and get busy keeping them scrupulously. Make sure you drive carefully while on the highway.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A fellow associate could handle a situation in a business like way at this time and make things much better for days ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into those duties which can make your surroundings in top-top condition at this time and be most efficient about them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early range recreations with good friends and make this a happy time. Be more sure of yourself and get far better results.

BIRTHSTONE OF SEPTEMBER:
Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

notion
incentive

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607172
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (14/09/1996 - 16/09/1996)
WEEKLY REPORT



BIDDING THE LAST 3 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SECURITIES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE VOLUME	TURNOVER
HIGH	LOW													
245.000	271.250	ARAB BANK	13.2	1.45	123	9360	2331233	244.00	252.00	241.00	241.00	-3.00	248.315	.213
4.450	4.600	CALDIO AMMAN BANK	9.2	3.37	4	27800	220150	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	-	4.450	.276
3.050	3.000	BANK OF JORDAN	11.0	0.00	1	1000	2077	3.00	3.05	3.05	3.05	-.05	3.350	.010
1.010	.800	MID-EAST INV. BK.	69.3	0.00	143	154550	142340	.99	1.08	1.00	1.05	-.06	1.040	1.446
2.740	2.130	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.2	6.19	22	10814	24662	2.21	2.33	2.21	2.25	-.04	2.274	.889
4.490	4.500	THE JORDANIAN BK.	15.5	2.74	135	132150	664814	4.48	5.10	4.90	5.04	-.16	5.021	.529
2.750	2.620	JOR. KOWALY BANK	19.4	0.00	20	2260	4052	2.70	2.72	2.67	2.70	-	2.670	.023
.930	.900	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	5.7	7.29	160	124951	122275	.92	1.01	.83	.98	-.03	.979	.625
3.800	3.180	JOR. KOWALY BANK	18.3	0.00	141	43500	167325	3.73	3.91	3.75	3.80	-.07	3.817	.298
1.730	1.610	UNION BK. DEV. INV.	114.8	0.00	5	1300	2044	1.61	1.62	1.53	1.60	-.01	1.572	.016
3.300	3.050	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	19.5	0.00	14	2718	5599	3.30	3.60	3.40	3.50	-.10	3.519	.027
2.440	2.250	REIT. AL-HAL (REIT)	1.4	6.78	40	22100	49062	2.25	2.28	2.18	2.24	-.01	2.220	1.105
.260	.280	AMMAN BANK INV.	-	0.00	30	117025	38741	.25	.32	.27	.32	-.06	.305	.780
1.500	1.470	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	-	0.00	119	28591	130973	1.20	1.44	1.23	1.39	-.19	1.319	.964
BANKS														
2.900	2.900	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.4	5.27	2	1874	5435	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90	-	2.900	.037
3.560	3.560	MIDDLE EAST INSUR.	21.5	3.90	1	50	375	3.56	3.56	3.56	3.56	-	3.560	.002
2.170	2.170	GEN. ARAB INSUR.	74.8	0.00	8	5010	13774	2.17	2.35	2.25	2.35	-.12	2.350	.418
4.500	4.500	JORDANIAN INSUR.	12.4	4.40	13	400	15126	4.48	4.58	4.50	4.55	-.05	4.511	.812
2.230	2.150	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.2	8.09	18	25700	34066	2.18	2.21	2.17	2.20	-.02	2.185	.714
2.200	2.200	REIT. LAND INSUR.	6.8	0.00	3	165	247	2.20	2.20	2.10	2.10	-.10	2.103	.021
5.100	5.100	REIT. LAND INSUR.	4.1	4.52	2	3700	10230	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10	-	5.100	.264
INSURANCE														
1.610	1.520	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.4	7.32	218	264945	424973	1.60	1.66	1.60	1.64	-.04	1.642	1.765
9.000	9.000	JOR. MODEL TOURISM	18.8	1.88	4	9634	43970	9.00	9.75	8.75	9.75	-.25	9.750	.193
4.800	4.800	ARAB ELECTRICITY	9.4	6.06	6	260	302	4.80	5.30	4.47	4.47	-.25	4.165	.009
2.320	2.150	SHIPPING LINES	16.4	3.00	3	2250	31025	2.15	2.17	2.15	2.17	-.02	2.170	.029
1.260	1.120	RAIL. PORTFOLIO	10.3	0.00	184	119888	123230	1.06	1.31	1.23	1.23	-.03	1.272	.308
.950	.880	REAL ESTATE INV.	20.2	3.50	13	2785	2551	.90	.93	.81	.91	-.01	.914	.059
4.690	4.690	JORDANIAN EXPL. TRAD.	14.3	0.00	73	53100	42792	.59	.71	.60	.68	-.09	.651	1.915
8.830	8.830	AL-KHAYAT	9.3	6.13	7	3850	30700	8.39	8.80	7.90	7.90	-.49	7.974	.193
7.570	7.570	AD-DEWOUR	22.4	2.94	1	100	719	7.57	7.19	7.19	7.19	-.38	7.190	.004
3.480	3.220	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	14.8	5.89	171	89564	506350	3.24	3.55	3.40	3.40	-.08	3.482	.875
1.130	1.000	SARNA EDUCATION	-	0.00	155	97186	115422	1.13	1.22	1.14	1.17	-.04	1.180	2.260
1.900	1.900	UNIFIED CO.	9.7	5.41	34	11500	23531	1.84	1.89	1.85	1.85	-.01	1.872	.230
1.015	.900	UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	36	18350	18376	1.00	1.01	.97	.97	-.01	.996	.367
SERVICES														
2.780	2.580	JOR. TOROADO & CO.	16.2	2.74	3	326	4732	2.10	2.05	2.05	2.05	-1.05	2.051	.079
3.430	3.270	JOR. CREDIT TRCT.	19.3	1.97	128	2101	99430	3.16	3.31	3.37	3.37	.01	3.364	.049
3.100	2.750	JOR. PROGRESS BANK	33.6	0.00	44	11200	26416	2.75	3.10	3.12	3.12	-.02	3.121	.895
5.560	5.200	ARAB POTASH CO.	17.3	3.51	46	43900	248951	5.20	5.30	5.20	5.20	-.10	5.777	.054
9.350	9.250	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.4	8.58	49	5931	56992	9.29	9.34	9.25	9.32	-.03	9.288	.093
7.200	7.150	JORDAN TANNING	7.7	5.03	6	606	2993	7.15	7.15	7.15	7.15	-	7.150	.041
1.470	1.150	WOLFE INDUSTRIES	61.3	0.00	25	4206	8892	1.40	1.42	1.38	1.38	-.02	1.404	.490
2.240	2.150	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	30.2	0.00	25	4206	14755	2.24	2.39	2.25	2.25	-.01	2.314	.126
7.190	7.050	JOR. WORTED KEELS	9.1	3.52	10	38500	254531	7.10	7.11	7.08	7.10	-.02	7.100	.896
2.880	3.600	ARAB TRASH. MNG.	20.8	4.11	22	6718	20674	3.10	3.20	3.05	3.05	-.09	3.713	.239
6.150	5.920	JOR. CEMENT IND.	7.6	4.11	22	6718	20674	6.10	6.20	6.05	6.08	-.02	6.078	.189
2.150	2.050	JORDAN DRESSING	10.0	6.97	8	347	738	2.15	2.16	2.15	2.15	-	2.127	.020
1.720	1.720	JOR. PAPER MFG.	10.0	6.97	8	347	738	1.72	1.80	1.80	1.80	-.08	1.800	.008
3.410	3.250	JOR. JAWAR CARDEN.	17.4	2.94	1	150	510	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	-	3.400	.805
2.320	2.800	GENERAL MINTING	7.1	20.83	5	3200	8745	2.80	2.77	2.64	2.77	-.03	2.732	.320
1.440	1.400	RAPIA INDUSTRIES	193.4	0.00	9	2350	3445	1.40	1.53	1.44	1.53	-.13	1.456	.235
4.680	4.580	DAR ALDINA DV. TRV.	13.5	4.04	44	14202	70827	4.58	5.00	4.93	4.95	-.10	4.987	.237
3.540	3.420	ARAB MACHIN. IND.	8.9	8.38	27	8115	28995	3.54	3.59	3.53	3.58	-.04	3.561	.135
.710	.480	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	-	0.00	405	173100	184992	.71	.85	.70	.81	-.12	.770	52.491
1.780	1.240	ARAB PAPER CON. IND.	8.4	8.22	49	38900	24625	1.27	1.29	1.26	1.26	-.01	1.271	.819
1.520	1.250	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	5	33460	16802	1.45	1.48	1.45	1.46	-.01	1.467	.186
.710	.670	NATIONAL IND.	10.3	8.70	51	43794	30430	.70	.70	.69	.69	-.01	.695	.730
1.210	1.144	STANDARD PETRO. CEN.	0.00	0.00	68	17850	20379	1.13	1.17	1.12	1.15	-.02	1.142	.444
.929	.870	JOR. ROYALTY IND.	197.6	0.00	7	1000	1089	.89	.90	.89	.90	-.01	.899	.070
2.450	2.280	UNIV. CEN. IND.	71.1	0.00	57	15100	47615	2.28	2.69	2.28	2.69	-.21	2.495	1.278
5.250	4.350	JOR. WOOD IND. MFG.	37.7	2.02	1	200	999	4.35	4.95	4.95	4.95	-	4.950	.013
2.900	2.800	RAIL. CABLE MFG. IND.	14.6	2.00	17	3286	8862	2.80	2.75	2.66	2.72	-.08	2.697	.066
.920	.880	JOR. SOLAR IND.	-	0.00	7	850	757	.92	.89	.89	.89	-.03	.891	.021
1.500	1.320	ARAB PAPER CON.	27.8	0.00	25	10300	15157	1.48	1.68	1.65	1.47	-.01	1.472	.206
1.620	1.320	RAPIA INDUSTRIES	50.1	4.29	9	4900	5481	1.40	1.33	1.24	1.24	-.01	1.355	.206
1.970	1.680	UNIV. CEN. IND.	5.2	12.50	31	7800	13446	1.70	1.75	1.70	1.73	-.03	1.724	.151
1.430	1.340	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	18.5	0.00	339	307340	561431	1.37	1.51	1.37	1.47	-.10	1.450	4.442
1.020	.950	JOR. NEW CEMENT CO.	27.2	0.00	126	99939	100327	.99	1.02	.98	1.00	-.01	1.002	1.249
1.900	1.870	EX. REVENUE MGR.	125.4	0.00	41	12635	245929	1.85	2.04	1.90	1.95	-.10	1.951	2.201
1.180	1.130	IND. TOBACCO	27.3	0.00	143	122193	143432	1.13	1.20	1.14	1.16	-.03	1.174	1.222
1.190	1.140	UNION CH. & VEG.	28.1	0.00	37	7850	8972	1.14	1.15	1.14	1.14	-	1.143	.224
INDUSTRIAL														
1.980	2.000	INDUSTRIAL	114.09	0.00	114.09	114.09	114.09	1.98	2.00	1.98	2.00	-.02	1.980	.027
3.065	4.270	INDUSTRIAL	149.49	0.00	149.49	149.49	149.49	3.06	4.27	3.06	4.27	-.02	3.065	.027
GRAND TOTAL														

Corporation plans new incentives

(Continued from page 8)

"For the time being we are lacking the technology needed for such a project. But we are working on it," Mrs. Badran stated.

Another project the association concentrates on is the expansion of incentives given to investors to cover more sectors.

This will mainly focus on the field of technical train-

ing and on television and video productions, Mrs. Badran said.

The IPC intends to impose a minimum investment on such projects. The organization did not decide on any figures yet, but a rough estimation, according to Mrs. Badran, aims at JD10 million for the media and between JD3.5 and 5 million for training programmes like nursery

schools.

Asked about the largest foreign investors on the Jordanian market, Mrs. Badran stated that businesses from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are the major investors.

Last year, the organisation's work was devoted 80 per cent to local investors and 20 per cent to foreign investors.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	0.6801	1.5150	0.6430	1.2384	109.93	1.3675	1524.49	1.6992	5.1330</

HIV-positive boxer wants to fight again

TULSA (AFP) — Former heavyweight contender Tommy Morrison, who retired eight months ago after testing positive for the AIDS virus, confirmed Wednesday he plans to return to the ring.

Morrison does not have a date, a site or an opponent for his proposed return, which he said will be a benefit for children with AIDS and HIV.

The 27-year-old fighter predicted shortly after his retirement that his HIV infection would disappear and that he would be back in the ring.

He later said those remarks had been misunderstood, and that he would not return to the ring until a cure for HIV had been found.

Morrison (45-3-1) still has to be licensed. He was suspended by Nevada State boxing authorities in February after testing positive for HIV.

Nevada is one of about 20 states that require fighters to test negative for HIV to obtain a licence.

Marc Ratner, head of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, boxing's governing body in the state, said he expected other states with commissions — including New Jersey and New York — to honor the Nevada suspension.

A handful of other states, however, do not have boxing regulators and might allow Morrison to fight. Morrison might also be able to challenge his suspension in court.

There are no documented cases of HIV being transmitted in a boxing ring, but rather said he thought the ban on HIV-positive fighters was a reasonable precaution.

Morrison, whose appearance with Sylvester Stallone in the movie Rocky V brought him as much notice as his real-life exploits in the ring, has not disappeared from the boxing scene during his retirement.

He worked as a ringside host for the pay-per-view telecast of the Mike Tyson-Frank Bruno fight in Las Vegas.

Dalglish retains flair for understatement

LONDON (R) — Kenny Dalglish, master of the monosyllable, has lost none of his flair for understatement.

Now officially resting after resigning his job as director of football at Premier League Blackburn, the former Celtic, Liverpool and Scotland striker launched his autobiography in a blur of interviews and book signings on Thursday.

In a burst of hitherto unsuspected lyricism, "Dalglish my autobiography" begins: "My adult life has simply been a time of trying to fulfill childhood dreams."

But in the flesh Dalglish remains Harold Pinter rather than Oscar Wilde.

Asked how he has succeeded in fulfilling his dreams, Dalglish examines the question from all angles, seeking hidden traps in a manner familiar to frustrated reporters who over the years have tried to extract post-match quotes.

"Not bad, not bad," he concedes finally.

At 45, Dalglish looks no different from the slight, spare figure who played with such distinction for Celtic and Liverpool before embarking on an equally memorable career in management with Liverpool and Blackburn.

Yet a vein of insecurity runs through a book which on the surface is a chronicle of continuous success interrupted only by the disasters of Haysel and Hillsborough.

"I have never been a confident person," Dalglish confesses after he was unexpectedly named as Celtic captain. "Becoming captain of the most successful team in Scotland didn't make me more confident."

And despite his determination to follow in the path of most ambitious Scots and try his luck south of the border, Dalglish never considered travelling abroad.

"I never fancied going abroad simply because I was afraid," he says. "I was worried that I might be in the dressing room and hear team mates joking and think they were laughing about me because I had had a bad game. That would have destroyed me."

Again he returns to the theme when describing his years at Liverpool in the 1980s, an era when the Merseyside team ruled Europe.

"If I had had more self confidence, I would have been a better player and maybe a better manager as well. Confidence, or rather the lack of it, was still an issue even when I felt well established at Liverpool."

At the height of his success as manager of both Liverpool and Blackburn, Dalglish walked away from the job, fuelling the media image of an enigmatic loner.

A hint of the pressures on the taciturn Scot as both player and manager comes early in the book.

"Everybody has a breaking point," he writes. "It's a relentless pressurised cycle. Every time I climbed a rung up the ladder, or tried to realise a target, it brought different stresses."

Dalglish says the Hillsborough disaster of 1989, when 96 Liverpool fans were crushed to death was the reason for his quitting Liverpool two years later.

"I was under pressure. I realised how much just before I left Liverpool. I had become unpleasant company at home. I was shouting at the kids."

Dalglish took Liverpool to the League and Cup double in 1985-86 in his first season as player-manager.

His success with Blackburn was even more astonishing, taking the club from the second division to the new Premier League then to the league title in 1994-95.

Again he stepped down from the director of football which came to an abrupt halt when he was sacked last month.

In an age of increasing insecurity for football managers who now rent rather than buy houses when they go to new clubs, Dalglish is certain to receive fresh job offers.

"I still enjoy going to matches," he said at the book launch. "But I don't miss football that badly. I am not in a desperate hurry to get back into football."

"I am perfectly relaxed about whether I get a job. I want to be involved in football but whether it is in management or something else, who knows? I have not got an advertisement out for a job."

Po wins in Nichirei tournament

TOKYO (R) — Kimberly Po of the U.S. upset sixth seeded hometown favourite Ai Sugiyama 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 Thursday to become the only unseeded player to reach the quarter-finals of the Nichirei International women's tennis tournament.

Po will now face defending champion and fourth-seeded Mary Pierce of France who struggled before beating unseeded Park Sung-Hee of South Korea 7-5, 6-2.

"I think (Sugiyama) plays similar to how I play, so I was kind of covering what I would hit and I happened to be right most of the time," said Po, who beat Kimiko Date of Japan in the first round of the U.S. Open.

Second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the 1994 champion, advanced when she beat Italy's Rita Grande 6-2, 6-2 and will face eighth-seeded Wang Shiting of Taiwan who won 6-1, 7-5 against Germany's Andrea Glass.

World Mountain Bike Championship Europeans claim gold medals in cross-country finals

CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA (AFP) — European riders dominated the cross-country finals at the World Mountain Bike Championship here Friday with Italy, Spain and Sweden taking gold in trying tropical conditions.

Italian Dario Acquaroli captured the men's senior under 23 event over a 49 kilometre course.

Acquaroli won in two hours 16 minutes 20.4 seconds and was 2min 43.6sec clear of France's Atlanta Olympic games bronze medallist Miguel Martinez with Australian Olympian Cadel Evans a further six seconds back in third position.

Martinez held the early lead but was overtaken by Acquaroli with one and a half laps remaining.

The Frenchman just staved off Evans. With 400 metres left Martinez led the Australian by 100m, but at the finish line the gap was down to 10 metres with Evans gaining with each pedal stroke.

Spaniard Jose Antonio Hermida Ramos took out the 39.6km men's junior cross country in a thrilling joust with Frenchman Michael Reynaud.

Ramos, who clocked 1hr 54 min 31.2secs, was just over eight seconds ahead of Reynaud with Norway's Haakon Austad taking bronze one minute 58.3 seconds behind Ramos.

The women's junior event over 20.8km went to Sweden's Helena Eriksson in 1 hour 14 minutes 15.6 seconds.

Eriksson was 2min 13 seconds ahead of compatriot Emelie Ohrstig with Swiss Sonja Morf third.

The junior and senior downhill finals are scheduled for Saturday.

A late storm Friday ensured that the 2.4km course would be muddy.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

3 charged with bribe attempt

SINGAPORE (R) — Three men were on Friday charged with offering a Philippines soccer player a bribe during the 10-Nation Tiger Cup tournament in Singapore earlier this month. Malaysian businessmen Kandasamy Karuppan and Yam Phung Fei and Singaporean personnel manager Chong Thin Hoong were charged with offering defender Saluria Beaneza Judy \$50,000 on September 6, a spokesman for the corrupt practices investigation bureau said. The three were alleged to have sought a 7-0 win for Singapore. The match ended 3-0. The spokesman said the charge referred only to the offer of money and did not say whether it was accepted. The three had been granted bail and their passports impounded, the spokesman said. Last year, Singapore and Malaysia were both rocked by soccer bribery scandals. In Singapore, a former international player and a club manager were jailed for offering a goalkeeper bribes totalling nearly \$100,000.

Cruyff loses first case

BARCELONA (R) — Johan Cruyff lost the first case he brought against Barcelona on Thursday but is set to appeal in what promises to be a lengthy legal battle between the coach and his former employers. Cruyff, whose eight years at the club ended on May 18, had claimed nearly 100 million pesetas (\$789,000) for unfair dismissal. Announcing the decision to appeal, lawyer Conrad Recha said the verdict was not all bad because it recognised that Barcelona had renewed Cruyff's contract until 1997. The Dutchman will nevertheless receive more than 30 million pesetas (\$236,000) because the club failed to give him three months' notice. On Wednesday, Cruyff brought further action to recover seven million pesetas (\$55,000) in what he claims are unpaid wages and bonuses.

Indurain abandons Tour

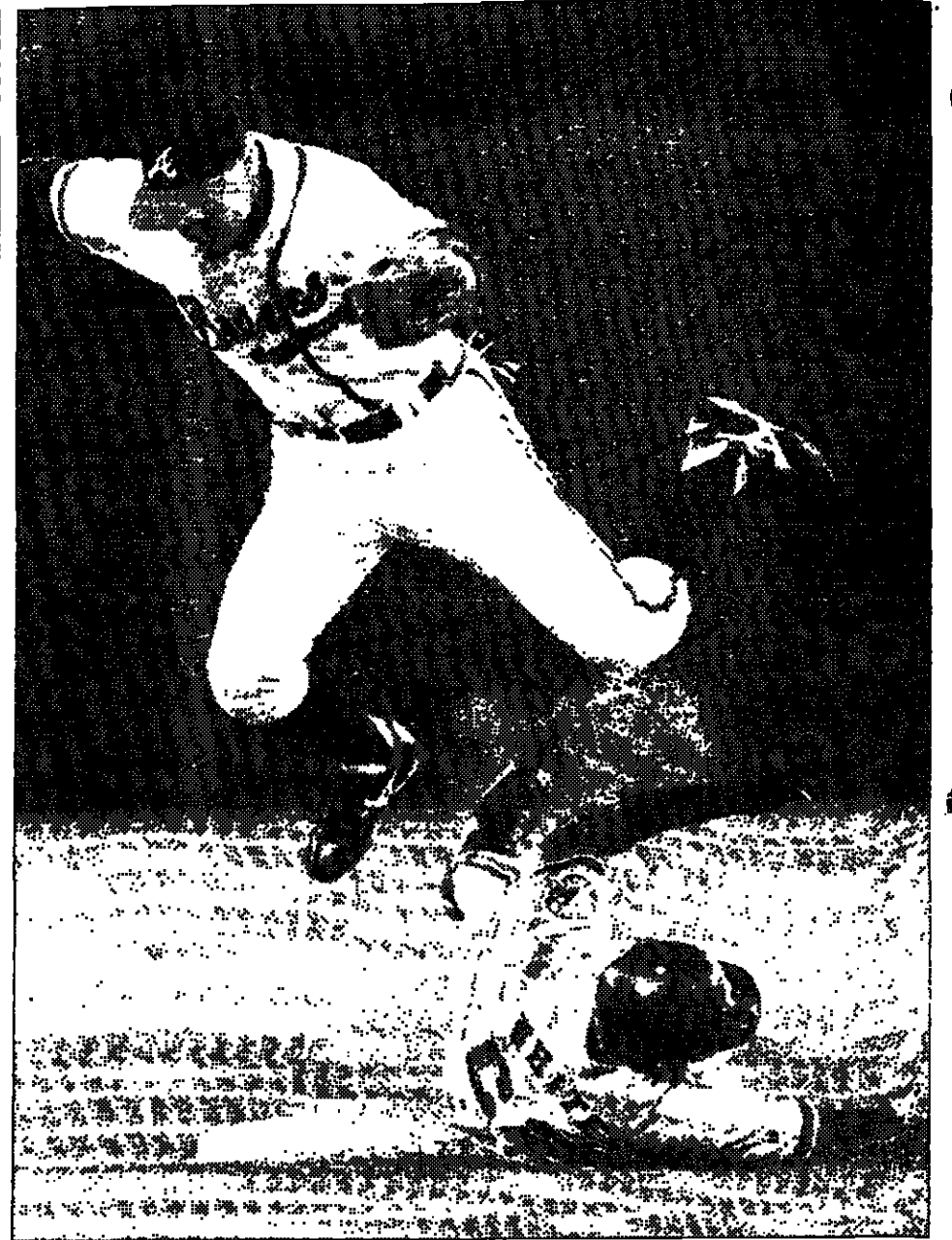
LAGOS DE COVADONGA, Spain (R) — Miguel Indurain retired from the tour of Spain 30 km from the end of Friday's 13th stage after struggling to keep in touch with the pack in a tough mountain section. The five times Tour de France winner, who started the section in third place overall after being left behind by leader Alex Zülle in Thursday's mountain finish, had slowed to talk to the Banesto team doctor on several occasions.

Boardman favourite for GP

LAC DE MADINE, France (AFP) — Time-trial specialist Chris Boardman starts favourite in Saturday's Nations Grand Prix here — a race he has never won. Britain's Boardman, who broke the world hour record two weeks ago with 56.375km, is hoping to continue his unblemished season till the world time-trial championship in Lugano, Switzerland in October. Boardman has already won the Eddy-Merckx-Grand Prix and the telekom Grand Prix, but the Nations GP is the most famous and more prestigious event. His main opposition will come from Tour de France winner Bjarne Riis of Denmark. Belgium's Johan Museeuw, Francis Moreau of France and world road race champion Abraham Olano of Spain.

Judson takes title

MANCHESTER (AFP) — England's 25-year-old Peter Judson scored a thrilling tenth-round knock-out victory over Welshman Dean Phillips to win the International Boxing Federation's (IBF's) inter-continental super-featherweight title here on Thursday.



Montreal Expos' Rondell White trips up the Atlanta Braves shortstop, Chipper Jones, to break up a double play on a ball hit by teammate David Segui in the sixth inning at Atlanta. Montreal won 5-1 (Reuters photo)

Yankees crush Orioles in opener

NEW YORK (AP) — Kenny Rogers pitched 5 2/3 shutout innings and Wade Boggs went 4-for-4 Thursday as the Yankees opened a five-game lead over Baltimore with an 9-3 win over the Orioles in the opener of a TWT-night doubleheader.

New York chased Mike Mussina (19-11) in two innings for its fifth straight win against Baltimore. The Yankees are 10-2 this season against the second-place Orioles.

Baltimore, which had made up nine games in the standings since late July, came to New York down three games and with designs on catching the Yankees. In the second game, David Wells started against New York's David Cone. Tim Lincecum homered and Mariano Duncan drove in three runs for the Yankees, who have won eight of nine.

Mariners 7, Rangers 6 in Seattle, the Mariners beat the Texas Rangers, completing a stunning four-game sweep that put them right back in the AL West race. Seattle, nine games behind on Sept. 11, pulled within two games of the reeling Rangers. Ken Griffey Jr. and Dan Wilson drove in three runs each, and suddenly a second straight division title seems possible for the Mariners.

Last year, the Mariners overcame a 12-game deficit on Aug. 20 and beat California in a one-game playoff. This year's comeback has been even more shocking, with Seattle gaining seven games in the standings in eight days.

While the Mariners have won eight straight, the Rangers have lost eight of nine, including five straight in the Kingdome. Indians 9, Royals 1 in Cleveland. Chad Ogea allowed three hits in eight

Dodgers rout Padres

Eric Karros' two-run homer helped limit Fernando Valenzuela to just 1 2-3 innings and Ramon Martinez was masterful as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Diego Padres 7-0.

Thursday in the opener of a four-game series to take a 1 1/2-game lead in the NL West.

Mike Piazza added a first-inning sacrifice fly and his 35th homer, a two-run drive in the ninth off Dustin Hermanson.

The Dodgers jumped on Valenzuela (13-8) so fast that they quashed the expected playoff-like atmosphere for the crowd of 41,287. The teams play seven times in 11 days, closing the season with a three-game set at Dodger stadium.

While Valenzuela lost for the first time since July 14, Martinez (14-6) won his sixth straight decision. Martinez, who lost his previous two starts against San Diego this year, struck out a season-high 12 and held San Diego to six hits in his second shutout of the season. He walked one.

In Pittsburgh, pinch-hitter Nelson Liriano had a tie-breaking single in the sixth inning and the Pirates beat the Cincinnati Reds, stretching their winning streak to eight games.

The three-game sweep of the Reds gave the Pirates their longest streak since an 11-game streak from July 30-Aug. 10, 1992.

With one out in the sixth, Jay Bell, Keith Osik and Liriano singled off Tim Lincecum (1-1) to break a 4-4 tie. Jermaine Allensworth singled in another run for Pittsburgh. Chris Peters (2-4) pitched 1 2-3 innings for the win. John Ericks pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

In Philadelphia, Edgardo Alfonzo hit two home runs and Rey Ordonez hit his first Major League homer as the New York Mets ended their four-game losing streak with a victory over the Phillies.

Mark Clark (14-11) gave up one run and five hits while striking out five and issuing no walks in seven innings.

Losing pitcher Rich Hunter (3-7) gave up six runs and seven hits in five-plus innings.

<p>TODAY AT</p> <p>CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>Nadia Jundi ... in ASSASSINATION (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 698238 PLAZA</p> <p>The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki...in Naser 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1" Arnold Schwarzenegger & Vanessa Williams ...in ERASER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>CONCORD "2" Sylvester Stallone ... in ASSASSINS Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Ammon Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275</p> <p>Today presents Zawad Waid Awad theatre group in the play entitled</p> <p>Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimieh & Hussein Tubeishat play starts 8:30 p.m</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155</p> <p>PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155-640155</p>
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U.S. top seed Monica Seles signs autographs for Japanese fans after her quarter-final match against Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu at the Nichirei ladies tennis championships in Tokyo. Seles defeated Sawamatsu 6-1 6-4 (Reuters photo)

Schumacher's brother signs for Jordan

ESTORIL (AFP) — Ralf Schumacher, the 21-year-old brother of German double world champion Michael Schumacher, will make his Grand Prix debut next year with Jordan-Peugeot, the team announced here Friday.

Owner Eddie Jordan said Ralf had been signed to a three-year contract. Jordan gave Michael his Formula One break at the 1991 Belgian Grand Prix, only to have him snatched away by Benetton at the next race.

"Ralf is a proven winner in Karts, Formula 3 and Formula 3000," said Jordan.

Schumacher said it was "a really big opportunity, really an extraordinary stroke of luck and a big chance for a young driver like me."

A year ago, he said, discussing his future with his brother, they could only see the possibility of racing touring cars.

Asked if he felt he was ready for Formula One, Schumacher said: "You never know if you're ready for F1, we'll see next year."

He said he was not worried about his performance being compared with his brother "because he has been in F1 for six years and is a double world champion."

Jordan said he was particularly impressed by Ralf's F3 victories in Macau, Monaco, and the Marlboro Masters race at Zandvoort, and his performance in the tough Japanese F3000 series.

Schumacher is currently leading that series by nine points, with two races to go, and said his aim was still to win the title there.

He has done several tests with the McLaren Mercedes team, and Michael said that "Ralf has indeed surprised me with the result of his tests — not only the lap times he showed, but also by his professional approach. I think that Jordan-Peugeot will be an ideal team for him."

He will start testing with Jordan in two weeks at Estoril, and Jordan said he would subsequently test at as many Formula One tracks as possible before the 1997 season starts.

Jordan said he was "still talking to everybody" about who will be his team's second driver alongside Schumacher.

Damon Hill, fired by Williams, is widely tipped as a possibility, though Jordan could retain either of his current pairing, Rubens Barrichello or Martin Brundle.

AC Milan anxious to overcome early setbacks

ROME (R) — Newly-promoted Bologna's surge to second place in Italy's Serie A will be tested thoroughly on Sunday when they face reigning champions AC Milan at home.

Whatever the outcome a 38,000 full house and a \$1.1 million box-office are guaranteed.

Milan are still smarting after successive league and European Cup defeats — a problem more mental than anything else, according to their Uruguayan coach Oscar Washington Tabarez.

"It's a psychological question that involves everyone," he said. "When we take the lead, that's the moment to make the most of your psychological advantage."

"Instead, against both Porto and Sampdoria, we didn't do enough to wrap up the game immediately."

Milan captain Franco Baresi and Schuster Robert to Baggio are both injured but Montenegrin forward Dejan Savicevic returns after suspension and injury.

Bologna, winners of their two games to date, expect to field their strong strike force of Russian Igor Kolyvanov and Swede Kennet Andersson.

Davide Fontolan and Giancarlo Marocchi add experience to midfield.

Internazionale, third and also with a six-point maximum, face a selection dilemma for their home game against lowly Lazio on Saturday.

With the return from injury of Dutch midfielder Aron Winter, Inter's English coach Roy Hodgson can call on a complete squad and may be tempted to field seven non-Italians.

Argentine Javier Zanetti and Frenchman Jocelyn Angloma in defence, England's Paul Ince, France's Youri Djorkaeff, Swiss Ciriaco Sforza along with winter in midfield and Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano are all expected to play.

Despite Lazio's poor start, captain Giuseppe Signori believes the side will perform well at the San Siro.

Early pacesetters AS Roma have a difficult home game against Sampdoria but can assemble their strongest side.

Juventus travel south to promoted Perugia, a side who have beaten them twice and held them to four draws in six home league games over the last 20 years.

7th Arabian Horse Festival

Jordan wins Middle East Championship title in senior category

By Mune'm Fakhoury and Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 7th Arabian Horse Festival came to an end Friday with Jordanian horse breeders taking advanced positions on the final day of the Kingdom's most prestigious annual equestrian event.

The four-day event which brought together over 140 entries from Kuwait, Qatar, Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, the U.S. and Jordan was capped with the Middle East Championship.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, presented the winners with their prizes as Fanniya of Jordan's Al Naqeeb stables beat 21 entries to clinch the Middle East championship in the senior female category followed by Shakara of the Royal Stables.

Jordan's Kheir Stables dominated the senior male category, as Scudly won first place followed by Verinag in second place.

In the junior female category Ansata Marha, owned by Qatar's Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani won first place followed by The Vision of Ariely Arabians.

Mosalli of Ariely Arabians won the junior male category followed by Leif Al Naser of Qatar's Sheikh Nawwaf Ben Naser Al Thani.

Jordan's biggest equestrian event, celebrating its seventh year, this season enjoyed sponsorship by Oracle, a leader in the world's information management software technology.

Twenty seven Jordanian horse breeders took part in the event representing over 70 per cent of 140 entries. Participating horses now qualify for international championships.

The final event of the festival is the judges course which will be held Saturday and Sunday.

Judges for the horse festival are Brian Blake (Australia), Robbie Den Hartog (Holland), Ignacy Jaworowsky (Poland), Brigitta Foch (Sweden), Izzidine Sudrati (Morocco), and Peter Upton of the (U.K.).

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HRH Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein receives second-place prize as Shakara of the Royal Jordanian Stud took second place in the senior female Middle East Championship (photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

Results from the horse show on Thursday and Friday.

Class 8 (Mares born in 1992)
First: Kamassayah — Al Shaqab Stud.
Second: Kahramanah — Al Naqeeb Arabians.

1989-1991)
First: Elvira — Sheikh Nawwaf Ben Naser Al Thani
Second: Favella — Royal Jordanian Stud

Class 10 (Mares born in 1985-1988)
First: Shakarah — Royal Jordanian Stud
Second: Sabba Bint Ibn Halima — Al Naqeeb

Class 11 (Mares born before 1985)
First: A.K. Fanniya — Al Naqeeb Arabians
Second: Carazina — Said Kheir

Class 12 (Stallions born 1992)
First: Ibn Shahid — Sheikh Nawwaf Ben Naser Al Thani
Second: Kamar Al Zaman — Royal Jordanian Stud

Class 13 (Stallions born in 1989-1991)
First: Scudly — Said Kheir
Second: Imperial Mahzeer — Sheikh Nawwaf Ben Naser Al Thani

Class 14 (Stallions born 1985-1988)
First: Demagog — Royal Jordanian Stud
Second: Golden Decimus — Royal Jordanian Stud

Class 15 (Stallions before 1985)
First: Verinag — Said Kheir
Second: Seyhal — Mohammad Sa'adudin

Classes 8-15 show Championship Senior Female
First: Kamassayah — Al Shaqab Stud

Second: A.K. Faniya — Al Naqeeb Arabians

Senior Male
First: Scudly — Said Kheir
Second: Imperial Mahzeer — Sheikh Nawwaf Ben Naser Al Thani

Class 16 Mare Produce Groups
First: Abir — Imran Stud
Second: Khajada — Royal Jordanian Stud

Class 17 Sire Produce Groups
First: Imperial Mahzeer — Sheikh Nawwaf Ben Naser Al Thani
Second: Golden Decimus — Royal Jordanian Stud

Senior non-registered Arabians (over 5 years)
First: Jilfeh II — Faisal Al Fayed

Junior non-registered Arabians (3 years and under)
Bashaar — Said Kheir

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Bint Ajibeh

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Al Maymoun — Said Kheir



Fanniya of Jordan's Al Naqeeb stables with her owner and trainers after beating 21 entries to clinch the Middle East championship in the senior female category (photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

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'EXERCISES' IN KUWAIT: A U.S. soldier of the Delta 1-9 second platoon of the first Cavalry Division puts on his gas mask during a platoon training attack with live ammunition in the Kuwaiti desert some 25 kilometres from the Iraqi border on Friday. About 3,500 U.S. soldiers were ordered to Kuwait to help deter what Washington described as possible military attack from Iraq (Reuters photo)

Cyanide proved to be cause of death of 2 children; police press inquiries

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police were over the weekend investigating how two children, found collapsed in their apartment 10 days ago, could have consumed cyanide, traces of which were found in their systems. Hanin Mazen Masri, nine, and her brother Hani, six, were found dead by their mother in their third-floor apartment in the Abu Oneizah Housing Complex in Shmeisani on Sept. 11. Police said Thursday pathology tests at the police criminal laboratory had determined that cyanide caused the children's death. "The results of tests conducted on samples taken from the children's intestine, liver and blood indicate that they had consumed cyanide," police said.

Police sources said the authorities were questioning family members and relatives of the victims.

Police last week ruled out the possibility of food poisoning and said they could not find any traces of poisonous material at the children's home that might have led to their death.

The two children were left alone by their parents, when their mother left home at 6:45 a.m. to drive her husband to work.

The children were seen playing at their balcony at 7:00 a.m. by neighbours. When the mother returned at 7:15 a.m., she found them unconscious.

She rushed them to a nearby hospital, but they were declared dead on arrival.

A source at the National Institute of Forensic Medicine said that it was the first registered cyanide poisoning in the Kingdom in the past 30 years. "It is very hard for individuals to obtain this deadly substance," the source said.

Most cyanides cause respiratory failure. Death may occur rapidly after swallowing as little as 300 milligrams of the salts or inhaling as little as 100 milligrams of hydrogen cyanide.

Symptoms include breath odour of bitter almonds, dizziness, convulsions, collapse, and often froth. Cyanide is most commonly used as insecticides in making pigments, in metallurgy, and in gold and silver refining.

It is also used in many chemical processes, including fumigation, hardening of iron and steel, electroplating and concentrating of ores.

Japan wants U.S. to consult allies on Iraq action

WASHINGTON (AFP)

Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda asked U.S. leaders here Thursday to hold extensive consultations with their allies before taking action in Iraq, a Japanese spokesman said. Mr. Ikeda held talks on defence cooperation with Defence Secretary William Perry and Secretary of State Warren Christopher that were also attended by Hideo Usui, the director general of the Japanese Defence Agency.

During the four-hour meeting, Mr. Perry thanked Japan for supporting the U.S. decision earlier this month to fire cruise missiles at Iraqi targets to punish Baghdad for its military foray into Iraqi Kurdistan, Mr. Ikeda's press secretary Hiroshi Hashimoto said.

Mr. Ikeda responded by saying that "he understands the difficulties which the Clinton administration faces (with Iraq)," Mr. Hashimoto said.

"But he asked the American side to explain thoroughly the objectives of the actions in the future to the international community, if the United States decides to take action against Saddam Hussein," Mr. Hashimoto added.

Britain, Germany, Japan, Canada, Israel and Kuwait were the only countries to back the United States in its military strike against Iraq on Sept. 3 and 4.

Key members of the international coalition that pushed back Iraqi forces from Kuwait in 1991, including France, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, either criticised the move or refused to assist U.S. forces.

Mr. Ikeda's request to the United States was the latest indication that the demise of the coalition partly resulted from Washington's failure to maintain close contact with its allies on Iraq.

Mr. Perry told Japanese leaders during the talks that Iraq did not pose an imminent threat but he said the United States was carefully watching events and was determined to protect their pilots patrolling the no-fly zones over Iraq, the Japanese spokesman said.

Settlers buying Arab homes in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Jewish groups aiming to "Judaize" East Jerusalem have bought nearly 50 Palestinian buildings in the sector and have begun moves to take possession of them, officials said on Friday.

"The real estate season in East Jerusalem has begun," police chief Arye Amit said, quoted by the daily Jerusalem Post, after one such group, the Ateret Cohanim, tried to seize a house in the heart of the Arab sector.

Ateret Cohanim warned that more such moves by settler groups could follow, saying: "There are many other buildings that have been purchased or are in the process of being purchased."

Wednesday night, armed guards employed by Ateret Cohanim broke into and took possession of an Arab building across the street from the U.S. consulate, claiming the group had legally bought the house, police said.

Police cleared out the guards on Thursday and authorities ordered both the Ateret Cohanim and the building's Palestinian owners barred from entry until ownership could be established.

Ateret Cohanim and other such groups "have already bought 48 buildings from Arabs in Jerusalem's Old City and Silwan, a neighbourhood just outside it," Khalil Tufakji, a Palestinian expert on settler activity, told AFP.

"So far they have not moved into them, but they could start doing so," Mr. Tufakji said.

Tufakji said.

The groups are encouraged by the Israel's right-wing government, which announced the end of four-year ban on Jewish building in the West Bank and has pushed to end the official Palestinian presence in East Jerusalem, he said.

"These groups feel the political climate and when they feel it's right to create an incident they move in," he said.

The groups buy the buildings "usually through Arab middle-men" from their Palestinian owners, "who sometimes know who they are selling to and sometimes not," Mr. Tufakji said.

The house seized Wednesday night may have been sold to Ateret Cohanim by members of the Palestinian Al Alami family now living in Sweden, which partially owned it along with the Al Rashid family, Palestinian sources said.

Ateret Cohanim denied it was involved in the seizure of the house, the Post said, citing a spokesman saying the group "works in other parts of the city."

Meanwhile, Israel authorised the dispatch of 13 mobile homes to West Bank settlements a day after police blocked their deployment on grounds it was unauthorised, officials said.

In a confrontation with settlers late Thursday, police prevented a convoy ferrying some 20 of the mobile home units from being driven to the

settlements of Dolev and Ramallah.

Police said the settlers had not received proper authorisation to move the caravans and ordered the drivers to turn back, but settlers from Jewish communities in the area blocked the road.

After an hours-long stand off, the defence ministry authorised five of the mobile homes to continue into Dolev and said another eight would be allowed later Friday into Talmor.

As part of its policy of expanding Jewish settlements in the territories, the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decided last month to authorise the dispatch of 300 mobile homes to existing settlements.

The mobile units are destined to serve as classrooms and administrative offices but not homes. The defence ministry has also authorised construction of hundreds of homes in settlements near Jerusalem.

But settler leaders have protested that the government is moving too slowly and Israeli press reports said Thursday's attempt to move the mobile homes before receiving permits was a calculated move by the settlers to highlight their complaints.

The presence with Thursday's convoy of Pinchas Wallerstein, leader of settlers in the West Bank, appeared to confirm that the settlers had been planning for a confrontation with police.

Watchdog reports fraud in landmark Bosnia polls

SARAJEVO (AFP)

An independent watchdog monitoring the peace process in Bosnia released a study Friday that appeared to point to ballot rigging in the republic's controversial weekend election.

In Paris, officials said meanwhile, the presidents of Bosnia and Serbia, will meet there on Oct. 3 for their first official bilateral summit meeting.

French foreign ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt announced the day for the meeting between Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and the newly reelected Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

The summit — which was arranged with the help of international envoy Carl Bildt and will be hosted by French President Jacques Chirac — "is expected to focus on pursuing the normalisation of ties between the two countries," Mr. Rummelhardt said.

Mr. Milosevic and Mr. Izetbegovic have met several times — both in public and in private — since Bosnia declared independence from the crumbling former Yugoslav federation and Belgrade armed, supplied and

backed rebel Serb forces in the war that followed.

They both attended peace negotiations at Dayton, Ohio, last year, met in Paris in December to sign the peace treaty and most recently met in Geneva on Aug. 14.

In Sarajevo, the International Crisis Group said that based on unofficial figures for the results for Bosnia's rotating three member presidency the turnout figure for last Saturday's vote was "improbably high."

Turnout among the Serbs was nearly 100 per cent, at 98.5 per cent, while the Muslims' turnout was over the maximum at 103.1 per cent.

Croat turnout meanwhile was still high but not improbable at 79.3 per cent, according to ICG which is headed by former U.S. congressman George Mitchell.

Bosnia's Muslims, Serbs and Croats each voted for an ethnic representative in the new-style ruling body in the most hotly contested race in the multi-tier elections.

The ICG calculations, if correct, would point to ballot stuffing by both Serbs and Muslims, whose candidates

were in a head-to-head battle to secure the chairmanship of the Bosnian presidency, and thus represent the country.

A Western official monitoring the election process said: "something stinks here."

Mr. Izetbegovic scraped in ahead of Bosnian Serb Momcilo Krajisnik by 40,000 votes.

A Krajisnik victory would have been unpalatable for many. The state company director turned nationalist helped lead Serb efforts to tear the country apart together with indicted war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic.

"In former totalitarian regimes these sorts of figures would not have been unusual. However, we know that nothing like that total voting population actually voted," Terence Clark of the ICG said.

ICG arrived at its conclusions, Mr. Clark said, using "extremely conservative" calculations of the electorate known not to have voted. Subtracting this sum — some half a million people — from the estimated maximum number of voters for each ethnic group, it made a comparison with the returned ballots.

Implementation of Iraqi oil deal not before 1997—Ghali

UNITED NATIONS (AFP)

The oil-for-food deal that would allow Iraq to export oil in order to purchase humanitarian supplies may not be implemented until 1997, according to the U.N. secretary general.

In an interview with AFP, Boutros Ghali said the deal faced problems that could delay implementation under U.N. Resolution 986 — the oil-for-food resolution — until 1997.

"I, personally, would like it to take place as quickly as possible, because it is a humanitarian resolution, and the Iraqi populace is suffering," Dr. Ghali said.

"We think that 986 is a humanitarian resolution independent" of Baghdad's recent offensive in northern Iraq, which forced the secretary general to delay carrying out the agreement.

Dr. Ghali added he believed the problems delaying implementation were primarily "technical."

related to the security of U.N. inspectors" the U.N. "still faces administrative and financial difficulties independent of the crisis" opposing Baghdad to Washington.

He indicated that the United Nations had still not received U.S. permission to open an escrow account to allow it to manage funds from the oil-for-food deal.

The deal, signed in May, was to be supervised by the United Nations. Dr. Ghali chose the New York subsidiary of the Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) for the escrow account. But the BNP was waiting for a U.S. treasury exemption from the sanctions against Iraq, in effect since 1990.

Asked if he believed Iraq and the United States were serious about implementing the arrangement, he said "there is in Iraq a school of thought opposed to 986."

"Remember that Iraq had (initially) rejected the resolution, and that ... I had to

convince (them)," he added. Queried on U.S. intentions, Dr. Ghali replied that "in every declaration before the Security Council, the United States said it was interested in implementing 986."

On September 3, shortly after the first U.S. strikes against Iraq, President Bill Clinton had said the oil-for-food deal would not be implemented until Washington were certain that humanitarian assistance would reach its intended targets.

"It is clear after what happened (in Iraqi Kurdistan) that there are problems in the field," Dr. Ghali said.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been dismantled, and the U.N. "was counting on NGOs for distribution (of the humanitarian supplies)."

"There are therefore problems which, according to me, are nonetheless not insurmountable," he concluded.

Yeltsin turns down offer of donated heart

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, waiting for a heart bypass operation, has turned down a supporter's offer to donate her own heart if the president ever needed a transplant. But ITAR-TASS news agency said Friday that Mr. Yeltsin had written to would-be donor Zinaida Ramazonovna Bolyeva thanking her for the offer. "I was touched," TASS quoted the letter as saying. "Of course there can be no talk of this, but the mere expression of your emotions is very dear to me. I want to express my total gratitude to you, dear Zinaida Ramazonovna."

TASS had said that Ms. Bolyeva, 46, made her offer at the office of the government party Our Home Is Russia in the autonomous region of North Ossetia, close to breakaway Chechnya. "The Russian president must have a healthy heart and be able to work hard," TASS quoted Ms. Bolyeva as saying. "He has to continue the course of democratic reforms and economic transformations which he has launched."

This postman only rings once

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A postman in the Indian capital has been arrested for refusing to deliver mail unless he was bribed, the Pioneer newspaper said Friday. The daily said anti-corruption agents arrested Mohammed Abbas after he was caught accepting 400 rupees (\$11.4) from a businessman who had not been receiving his mail regularly. Manish Kumar, a fruit merchant, had earlier complained that Mr. Abbas had been refusing to hand mail over unless he was paid money. India's giant postal service, one of the world's biggest and oldest, is notorious for delays, strikes and lost mail. A postal go-slow in the Indian capital last year fuelled a storm in parliament.

Boy scouts get new merit badge — for PR

LONDON (AFP) — Along with knot-tying and camp-fire-starting, British Boy Scouts have added a new survival skill to their bag of proficiencies — public relations. Scouts wishing to qualify as bona fide PR men will have to give a presentation about scouting and prepare a press release about an expedition or activity which gets media coverage. They will also have to produce a troop newsletter, create a visual display for a parents' evening and arrange a visit to a local newspaper. A Scout Association spokesman said the idea was to "update the stereotype people have of scouting — funny hats, shorts and helping grannies across the street." The merit badge emblem for scouting's latest skill will be a tiny mobile telephone.

Up to 300,000 youngsters live rough on U.K. streets

LONDON (R) — Up to 300,000 youngsters are sleeping rough on the streets of Britain, according to a charities report. More than one in 30 young people in the 16-25 age group may be affected, said the National Inquiry into Preventing Youth Homelessness. The Children's and Housing Charities said the problem had been hidden and neglected in Britain. Inquiry Chairman Andreas Whitam Smith, founding editor of the Independent newspaper, said: "The young homeless are actually getting younger and the proportion of the young homeless who are women is also rising. It's a startlingly large problem and it's certainly one that's getting worse."